

# THE NATIONAL WOOL GROWER

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## NATIONAL WOOL GROWER

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## *Affairs Of Wool And Sheep*

### Normal Conditions:

Present conditions in the sheep business, whether considered in respect to production or marketing, can only be recognized as normal.

As in many industries, there has been much difficulty since the war in deciding just what constitutes a normal state. Prior to May 18, 1920, market conditions were above normal. In 1921 and 1922 they were below normal. The early demand for wool and lambs of the 1925 crop was extraordinary and constituted a condition which, in the nature of things, could not be permanent. After a very reasonable conservatism on the part of the former buyers of future wool and lambs prices have reached a point that cannot be resisted and business is becoming more active.

Thinking sheepmen have usually preferred and desired a more even course of prices for their products if such could be had at reasonably remunerative levels. Boom prices raise expenses, hurt consumption, and increase the volume of high cost production. Abnormally low prices ruin producers and seldom give corresponding benefits to consumers. As shown in this issue by President Hagenbarth, manufacturers want and need stable wool prices. The great advances being made this year in orderly wool selling with the financial service of the Intermediate Credit Banks created for that purpose constitute a long step toward the stability of values and the removal of hertofore frequent and ruinous departures from a preferable normal course. It is a time for sheepmen to take heart and to increase their pride and confidence in their industry.

### The Tariff Commission:

It cannot be denied that the policy of the administration at Washington

has been effective in establishing and maintaining normal conditions in business. An active and capable political opposition properly seeks to reveal weakness in the governmental acts and policy. Recently the affairs of the Tariff Commission have been taken up in an effort of this kind. An investigation is under way and the facts so far brought out serve chiefly to show the soundness and fairness of the acts of President Coolidge and his associates and advisors.

In the affairs of the Tariff Commission there has been a good deal that is unfortunate and that was being remedied as fast as was possible under the circumstances. The Tariff Commission is still in the experimental stage and the experimental feature was added to by entrusting it with important duties in connection with the so-called flexible paragraphs of the Fordney-McCumber Tariff Act passed in 1922.

The commission has an important place to fill in our national affairs. Time will show that the procedure anticipated in the flexible paragraphs can be obtained in a way to avoid the serious and unnecessary interference with business and the general uneasiness so certain to be experienced when all import duty rates must be considered and adjusted at the same time, often long after alteration was needed in order to secure the desired relationship of such rates to values.

### Bi-Partisan Membership

The big difficulty under which the commission has always operated is found in the fact that its membership must contain persons opposed to the policy of protection to home industries which policy it is the sole duty of the commission to aid and make fair and effective. Until the policy of protection generally is admitted and recog-

nized by both political parties a tariff commission compelled by law to be bipartisan cannot serve the country as is possible and desirable.

The other difficulty in the history of the commission has its basis in the character and calibre of some of the members, aside from their political ideas. This condition, President Coolidge has attempted to remedy as fast as opportunities were offered, but the testimony of some of the members themselves, given to the Senators investigating committee, clearly shows that the Commission's work and ser-

vice has been hindered by the attitude of a few men lacking the qualifications and experience to full and proper use of the power and opportunities of the Commission.

The President's later appointments to the Commission have been well calculated to improve the personnel. The Commission itself and the flexible paragraphs will not have had a fair trial until the law respecting appointments is changed or until the course of events gives the President further opportunity to improve the calibre of the membership.

tive and warehouse agencies became more or less active and a comparatively small amount of the American wool clip was held in this manner in various sections of the West and on the market seaboard. Some of these agencies were holding wools under instructions from the owners to await higher prices and over-played the wool market and held their wools off too long, until they, in turn, were called on from banks and other sources of credit to liquidate.

Another factor making for lower quotations is the fact that certain wools now being sold are hold-overs and left-overs of inferior quality from last year's clip, and also certain new fed lambs' wool, which is very heavy and shrinky. These inferior wools are also of heavy shrinkage and low grease pound value. They, however, served to make a quotation for grease wools at a comparatively low price. The price of grease wool means nothing unless we are acquainted with its quality and shrinkage. All wool quotations should be made on a basis of clean cost.

At the present juncture, there is no occasion for alarm. Foreign markets have held steady at recent levels of value and advances in some cases. However, wools are appreciably lower than during last November and December, even on the foreign markets, but not low enough to account for the present low prices being paid for distress or inferior quality wools being offered on the Boston market. Boston, as usual, is comparatively the lowest wool market in the world. The domestic clip has been well cleaned up and the 1926 clip, even at 300,000,000 pounds, will not provide more than sixty to seventy per cent of wools required for very modest mill consumption. The heavy surplus of manufactured goods has been gradually working itself into the channels of trade, and as soon as a buying movement starts, which should occur within the next sixty to ninety days, there should be a much better tone to the market, though no runaway boom can be expected.

In the meantime the growers who

## The Wool Situation

By President Hagenbarth

There has been considerable agitation, much of it unnecessary, concerning the wool situation. Some requests have been made of the National Association asking that a wool conference be called in the immediate future to devise ways and means of handling this year's wool clip. Growers will remember that, as a rule, the wool market immediately preceding and immediately after shearing has, for many years, been draggy and slow. This is but natural, as the buyers, either mill men or dealers, desire to purchase at the lowest possible levels, and therefore use such tactics as may bring about lower prices. There is nothing unusual in the present situation.

Going back to the major part of the year 1923, and the months of January and February of 1924, we find that mills were running at full time and over-time, and that during the year immediately preceding March, 1924, approximately 800,000,000 pounds of wool, including carpet wool, went from the raw wool state into some state of manufacture. This was approximately 200,000,000 pounds more than the normal consumption of the United States, and was one of the direct causes of the high flurry in wool prices which followed somewhat later. This excess of manufactured goods, whether tops, yarns, or cloths, did not readily go into consumption, as buyers of these finished or semi-finished products were tak-

ing goods in a hand-to-mouth manner and consequently manufacturers' warehouses were left well stocked and carrying not only an apparent, but a real surplus of manufactured products.

This state of affairs eventually brought on a forced selling campaign, where manufacturers became more or less panicky and began to cut prices. Certain other reactions also followed; one was the ten per cent cut in wages to mill operatives and another a desire to buy wools at lower prices.

Another factor which entered into the situation was the speculative movement of wools to higher levels during the latter part of 1924, and the early part of 1925. The buying movement was not confined to legitimate market men and dealers, but was taken up by many small speculators, who were readily able to secure borrowed funds, and who thereupon began operating on a shoestring basis without sufficient capital behind them to hold their purchases against a possible unfavorable turn in the market. As time went on, the wool market sought lower levels and bankers, becoming tired of renewals, began asking shoestring operators to "cash in." This compelled a certain amount of so-called "distress" wools to be thrown on to the market, which, of course, meant lower prices, regardless of actual ultimate values.

In the meantime, pooling, coopera-

have learned that opportunity is open for them for warehousing and financing their wools and either pooling them at home or at points suitable to await proper market movements, or on the other hand those growers who prefer the old method of consigning to reputable commission firms, will find that as time goes on, the proper value will have been received for their products.

No process of warehousing, pooling or selling on commission will enable a grower to receive more than the actual market value of his wool as measured by the world's market, making proper allowance for tariff and shipping expense and difference in quality. On the other hand, by becoming panicky, selling good wools on a basis established by "distressed" wools or inferior quality stuff, he will surely be a heavy loser. The manufacturer as well as the grower is interested in a steady stable market and is not worried materially if wool should go a few cents higher per pound, provided it maintains approximately that level on a stable basis. It is the erratic and extreme ups and downs of market prices which give the manufacturer the most concern, as he is afraid that during the process he may buy wools on the high level and his competitor may buy on the low level, thus placing him at a competitive disadvantage when he sells his finished goods.

The present situation seems to offer a very favorable opportunity to extend the activities of cooperative or other plans of financing wools at home and placing them in the hands of competent and reliable selling houses to be passed on to the mills later in the season, when there is less active competition among growers to make sales than usually exists up to the time of shearing. The contracting of unshorn wools is not and cannot be a safe business procedure as a regular thing, either for the grower, the dealer or the manufacturer, and the market conditions of the first part of 1925 were not normal or standard, and afford no proper measure of what is to be expected in normal times.

As the local and state organizations increase in number and in the amounts of wool handled, some steps may need to be taken to guard against injurious competition in making sales, though it must be remembered always that no selling agency can be expected properly to do more than secure the value of wool as determined by conditions of demand and supply. The men and the concerns who do the selling can greatly serve their customers by exercising good judgment in selecting the time to sell and in avoiding the forcing of sales in a way or at a time that will give greater advantage to buyers than is warranted by visible supplies and the conditions of actual and prospective demand.

At the present time the existing facilities for making sales of wools consigned by individuals or organizations for orderly marketing appear to be adequate. If there is a very large increase in the amount of consigned wools, sufficient to overtax the capacity of the agencies which growers select to do their selling, or if there is found to be a lack of cooperation among the selling agencies employed, it may become desirable for the National Association, on behalf of wool growers generally, to undertake the establishment of other facilities needed or to secure the harmonious functioning of the organizations and concerns set up or employed by the growers. But to set up, in a few days or weeks, a west-wide selling agency would be to attempt to do in a short time a job that requires months, if not years. In the case of such an organization, it would be found, as in the case of the former and existing grower controlled agencies, that assurance of a volume of wool for a number of years is essential.

Storage facilities, high class salesmen, mill connections for making sales,—all these are things that cannot be acquired quickly if they are to be satisfactory, and to be most secure must be built up by careful and continued diligence exercised by trained men, through several years. Unless

there is a promise of an adequate amount of wool properly to employ such men and facilities for a long period, no good, but much harm, may result from attempting to set up a temporary concern.

When there is a demand from growers who wish to practice orderly wool marketing for association activity in going beyond or adding to the facilities now available, the officers of the National Association, as usual, will endeavor to perform every service and activity approved by its membership.

There is nothing unusual in the present situation. There has been some slight increase in production and supplies of wool, but the world's annual wool clip is still less than it was before the war. The merchandising of wool and the production and selling of goods are undergoing serious changes, all of which promise greater stability and less speculative and less spasmodic turns of the trade in the future. The present greatest need is for a constructive attitude on the part of growers and for their having confidence in their own industry.

Since it became possible through the Intermediate Credit Banks for the grower to finance his wool through local organizations and to employ salesmen solely on the basis of their ability to make good sales and not in part as bankers, the day of the general orderly marketing of our wools has rapidly been drawing nearer. The present year promises to add greatly to the progress in this direction that has been achieved in recent years. It always costs money to hold wools for sale at a later time. Better selling methods cannot make new markets or new values, but they can and will do a great deal for the grower who produces a good article, uses his good judgment, and that of others in arriving at a sound and permanent method of getting his clip to the mill in the most efficient way.



## The Revised Grazing Bill

A revised form of the Federal grazing bill was reported to the United States Senate on March 27 by the Senate Committee on Public Lands and Surveys.

The present bill is an amended form of Senate Bill 2584, introduced by Senator Stanfield of Oregon, and was recommended for passage without adverse vote from the Senate committee. The bill in its present form has the endorsement of the Department of Agriculture respecting the provisions affecting the administration of grazing on the forests. The Department of the Interior has also approved the present provisions pertaining to grazing upon the public domain.

It is not unlikely that the bill will come to a vote in the Senate prior to the expected adjournment of Congress in May. There is no prospect of action by the Lower House before next winter, and it is possible that at that time some objections or amendments may be offered by the same interests and persons who were so active in opposition during the recent hearings, or by others.

In its essential features the present bill is mainly similar to the original one which was printed in full in the February issue of the Wool Grower. The revision which was finally agreed upon between the representatives of the stockmen and of the Department of Agriculture presents in simpler form the policy to be followed and the methods to be observed in the administration of grazing on the forests. Material changes were also made in the language employed for the purpose of reassurance to the opponents of the original bill regarding the continuation of the present governmental policies of conservation of timber and water and all other resources upon lands of the national forests.

Material concessions were made by the Department of the Interior in respect to the public domain grazing. The department agreed that no system of leasing or regulation would be put into effect unless requested by the ma-

jority of the persons affected, and after full hearings from minority stockmen who might be opposed to the wish of the majority. A modified method of handling appeals from decisions of local officers was also agreed upon. These and other alterations in both parts of the present measure are outlined in more detail in the paragraphs which follow.

Determined opposition to legislation which would in any way legalize or recognize grazing upon public lands was expressed before the committee by representatives of the American Forestry Association, the American Society of Foresters, and by individual voluntary witnesses. The first named association has 15,000 members, most of whom are residents of eastern states. The officers include present and former officials of the United States Forest Service and a large number of individuals prominent in public and official life. Witnesses representing this organization were insistent that no legislation of any character was desirable or necessary so far as grazing is concerned. They held that the entire grazing industry so far as it was related to the forest lands, should be subject completely and at all times to forest officials and the Secretary of Agriculture and in a way that would permit them to remove all live stock from the forests at any time such action was deemed desirable or necessary. The extreme opposition of these organizations and the strength of their influence was a revelation to the representatives of the stockmen who attended the hearings. It is apparent that there has been much more danger than has been realized of some drastic action regarding forest grazing, if not the complete removal of all stock from the forests.

The retention of provisions affecting the public domain grazing along with the forest sections of the bill is expected by the Senate committee to add greatly to the prospects of passage in both branches of Congress. So far as the House of Representatives is con-

cerned, considerable doubt still exists as to the possibility of passing a separate forest grazing bill, even with the support of the administration. The provisions of the revised bill furnish the maximum amount of stability to present users of the public domain lands and their adoption would also serve to prevent the passage of measures of a radical character likely to be introduced unless some constructive action is now taken.

### The Revised Bill

The revised form of the bill now before the Senate is entitled: "A Bill to provide for the protection, development, and utilization of public lands and national forests by providing an adequate system for grazing live stock thereon, and for other purposes." The declaration of policy regarding grazing on government lands is stated as follows:

"It is hereby declared to be the policy of Congress in promoting the conservation of the natural resources of the public lands and national forests to provide for the protection and development of the forage plants growing thereon and for the beneficial utilization thereof for grazing by live stock under such regulations as may be considered necessary and consistent with the purposes and provisions of this Act. In effectuating this policy the use of these lands for grazing shall be subordinated (a) to the development of their mineral resources, (b) to the protection, development, and utilization of their forests, (c) to the protection, development, and utilization of their water resources, (d) to their use for agriculture, either with or without irrigation, and (e) to the protection, development, and utilization of such other resources as may be of greater benefit to the public."

It must be remembered that existing Federal statutes contain no reference whatever to the grazing of live stock upon government lands of all classes. Such grazing as is being done is entirely through sufferance and under



general authorities granted to executive officials to administer lands as they deemed best. The government policy, as above stated, is not so far reaching as might be wished, but it legalizes and recognizes grazing and places upon administrative officials the responsibility for following out the directions of Congress as stated in the declaration of policy and in subsequent provisions of the present measure.

#### Public Domain

Title 2 of the bill provides for the granting of leases upon public lands. Such leases can be made to individuals or to corporations or associations.

The issuance of leases upon public lands would be required only after the lands concerned have been included in an organized grazing district. Grazing districts can be established by the Secretary of the Interior only upon petition of the majority of the stock owners affected. Such a petition does not require the secretary to set up the grazing district. When a petition is filed, the secretary or his representatives are compelled to publish notice to that effect in local papers for at least six weeks before issuing the order to create the grazing district. This is calculated to give the minority objectors full notice and opportunity to acquaint the secretary with their objections to have the lands they use included in a grazing district.

By recognizing associations it is possible to grant leases to large areas for general use by members of the association. Such a plan is necessary in cases where water supply and snowfall is uncertain and users of the lands must necessarily have option to graze on different areas in different seasons.

Should the bill pass the local option features outlined above probably would operate in a way to cause the creation of but a limited number of grazing districts at the outset. The methods used and the attitude of the land office officials would determine the popularity of the leasing system and unless such was generally satisfactory, the plan would not come into extended operation.

Section 213 of the public domain part of the bill provides that one year after a grazing district has been established, it will be unlawful for stock owners not holding leases to allow their stock upon lands in an established district. In deciding as to who shall have such leases, it is made mandatory upon the secretary to "award privileges, to users of the range within the district, as nearly identical in respect of location, extent of usage, and kind of stock, with the customary usage of such users, as is consistent with the efficient administration of such district."

It is contemplated that the general plan to be employed will be that of granting leases upon a definite and described area of land. Opportunity is provided for issuing leases on the basis of the number of live stock to be grazed where such is necessary for local administration. The leases would be for periods of ten years, with the possible exception of cases in which some of the lands would be required for other use before the expiration of ten years. It is provided that upon the expiration of leases, previous holders of leases shall be entitled to a preference over other applicants in obtaining new leases upon all such lands as the department may authorize to be continued for grazing use.

In granting leases the secretary will be required in all cases to give preference to owners of land which can be more economically utilized when used in connection with grazing afforded within the district.

The 320 and 640-acre homesteading arrangements would not be operative during the term of a lease.

The language of the bill as relating to charges to be made is practically the same as in the original form, and is considered to debar present or future officials from adopting the commercial plan of assessing fees. Provisions were retained to authorize the Department of the Interior to expend ten per cent of such moneys as may be collected for range improvements. Twenty-five per cent of the total col-

lections would be returned to the states for road and school funds.

It is understood that the Senate committee is considering the introduction of a separate bill for the return to states of a larger amount of moneys collected from public lands than is returned under present laws.

The members of the committee who are lawyers hold to the opinion that it would be undesirable to provide in a grazing measure for appealing decisions of administration officers direct to the courts. Such appeals are very unusual in the operation of government departments in other lines, and it was argued that an attempt to make an exception of the grazing question would create difficulties and questions of judicial procedure which might delay and possibly defeat the entire undertaking.

The public lands section of the bill, however, provides that a holder of a grazing lease, or an applicant for a grazing lease may secure a review of a decision of officers of the Interior Department by the registrar of the local land office. From the decision of that official appeal would be possible to the Commissioner of the Land Office at Washington, and thereafter to the Secretary of the Interior.

#### Forest Grazing

In addition to legalizing and recognizing the place of grazing upon the national forest lands, the revised bill retains in an improved form the provisions calculated to stabilize live stock production through giving greater security to holders of forest grazing permits. It is still provided that present permit holders would receive in lieu thereof "contracts" for ten years. In issuing such contracts the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized and directed to state therein the conditions to be observed for the protection of timber and water, and also to state the maximum amount of reductions that may be made for any purpose during the period of the contract. It will also be required that in renewing contracts, preference should be given to holders of previous contracts and to owners of ranch property dependent for benef-

ial use upon the forest grazing. A new feature was introduced into this part of the bill in reference to dependent ranch property by stating that the secretary may exercise his discretion as to whether such dependent ranch property should be owned or only controlled by the stock owners.

The idea of an area-basis contract has been retained in the bill in a way that should bring this form of contract into use in many cases. With the more friendly spirit on the part of the Forest Service that has developed during the negotiations on this legislation and with the greater confidence and feeling of security on the part of stockmen that would result from the new law, the old users who have endeavored to protect and improve conditions upon the lands used by them will secure the benefit of any increase in grazing capacity.

The bill also provides that "grazing privileges shall be allocated to such extent and in such manner as the secretary shall determine to be in the public interest, with a view to the adequate utilization of ranch property in use in connection with grazing on the forest, the economic development of localities and beneficial use of the forage resources, and the encouragement of cooperation by permittees in conserving and developing the resources of the forest." It is also provided that grazing contracts may be transferred at any time to any parties approved by the Secretary of Agriculture.

The provision regarding the charges for grazing are still stated in general language, which, however, is considered adequate to preclude the employment of any methods of determination that would result in competitive bidding, or the placing of the charges upon a commercial basis. It is provided that the fees shall "be fixed with due regard to the stable value, seasonal or annual, of the grazing, and in no case shall exceed such value; be fixed with regard to the general effect on ranch property used in connection with grazing on the forests; and be moderate, with adequate allowance for the restrictions and duties imposed upon the

permittee for protection of the resources of the forests." This part of the bill is the one now chiefly objected to by those opposed to the whole plan of legalizing grazing and whose claim is that full commercial rates should be exacted while any grazing is permitted.

In Section 313, entitled, "Co-operative Agencies," it is provided that local boards shall be established to cooperate with officials in the administration of the act and to hear and decide appeals filed by stockmen. It is required that a majority of the members of such board shall be selected by the permittees of the forest or forests for which the board is appointed. Upon completion of consideration of any such appeal, the board shall make a report in writing of its findings of fact and of its decision to the secretary or such officer as he may designate. Such a decision shall be effective unless later reversed by action of the secretary himself.

The bill proposes to allow the Forest Service to expend ten per cent of the receipts from grazing "for the construction and maintenance of range improvements, the eradication of poisonous plants, predatory animals, and rodents," and for the expense of the boards. It would also be permissible for the officials to impound stock found upon the forests which is not the property of the holder of a grazing contract. The owner of such stock would be required to pay the costs of removal and of advertising to determine ownership.

#### Prospects of Passage

Considering the present form of the Stanfield bill and the favorable prospects for its becoming an effective law in 1927 or 1928, it appears that western stockmen are at last about to realize the desires of the last forty years. In the long period in which the grazing of government lands has been either unlegalized or administered in more or less arbitrary fashion, the real value and necessity of stability and of fair and reasonable administrative methods has, to a considerable extent, been lost sight of.

The benefits that would ac-

crue from the operation of the law now proposed would add immensely to the stability and attractiveness of the live stock business now associated with the government lands. It would also remove for all time the danger of radical legislation or administrative acts through which it is today possible for Congress or appointed officers practically to wipe out that portion of the live stock industry which is dependent upon forage grown on government lands. The Stanfield bill is the first measure of its kind to be reported from a committee and to be placed upon its passage in either branch of Congress, although over forty different measures dealing with various phases of the question have been introduced and discussed during the last generation.

The attitude of the Secretaries of the Departments of Agriculture and Interior and the cooperative spirit exhibited by the officials of these departments during the recent negotiations seem to promise a new era of harmony and good feeling in the procedure which always will be necessary so long as these lands are owned or controlled by the national government.

A comparatively small minority who are still opposing the revised bill have been making strong representations in an effort to prevent any action upon the present or any other measure. Those who favor passage of this bill offered can serve themselves and their industry by writing or wiring at an early date to communicate their wishes to their senators.

Since the holding of the hearings, provided for through the Cameron resolution, the members of the Senate sub-committee have been the recipients of the effects of a very determined and widely disseminated propaganda against any legislation and against those who have endeavored to serve the stockmen in this matter. It has only been through the unselfish efforts and courageous action of Chairman Stanfield and Senators Cameron, Oddie, Kendrick, Means and Ashurst, that the present favorable situation and prospects have been brought about.

## Around the Range Country

The notes on weather conditions appearing under the names of the various states are furnished by J. Cecil Alter of the U. S. Weather Bureau, and based upon reports and publications of that bureau.

The letters are from interested readers. The Wool Grower welcomes and desires such communications from any part of the country and also invites comments and opinions upon questions relating to the sheep industry and statements of occurrences of importance and significance to wool growers.

### WYOMING

Unusually mild weather prevailed until the closing week when frequent snow flurries and unusually low temperatures occurred; live stock were pinched a little, but there was no particular harm done. Shed lambing is well along with a large crop reported. Nearly all the ranch stock have been turned on to the ranges at the lower elevations. Feed is generally reported plentiful, with grass green-ing nicely on the lower areas and the snow receding at the high elevations. Feeding on the winter range areas has been comparatively light. A good calf crop is reported.

#### Buffalo

It has been dry all this month (March 23) and we are beginning to need moisture. The grass is coming on rapidly. In January 30,000 lambs were contracted for fall delivery at \$11.25, but since then nothing has been done in that line. A few old ewes have been sold at \$10.50. No movement in wools here so far.

Fred G. S. Hesse.

\* \* \*

#### Ross

We have had good weather since March 1, with mild temperatures and not much snow. We are not lambing yet, but some of the lambs have been contracted at \$10.50 at Gillette. Some wool was also sold at Casper at 33 cents.

I think the government trappers have done a good work in eradicating coyotes.

Sheepmen lease practically all the range they use in this locality.

Wm. E. Taylor.

\* \* \*

#### Dickie

We have had snow on the ground in this section since the 16th of last October and it is still white with snow this morning (March 15). On this account there will be a beautiful, clean, well grown clip of wool this spring.

David Dickie.

\* \* \*

#### Shoshoni

The weather was good until March 20, when it turned cold and windy. A few clips of wool have been contracted at 32 to 33½ cents and some lambs at \$15.00.

J. M. Teeters.

### IDAHO

Recent stormy weather and a cold snap or two checked the growth of spring pasturage; but lambing has progressed on farms and ranches apparently without harm. Winter wheat and pasturage at the lower elevations is making a thrifty start, however, as the season has generally advanced rapidly. Cattle are mostly in good condition, and are being turned on to the ranges.

#### Gray

The first three weeks of March were fine, but this last week has been cold with blizzards. We have had a mild winter here and about one-third of the hay will be left over and if the summer is not too dry there will be enough hay to see us through next winter.

Feed on the range looks very promising. The coyotes are not all dead yet.

Fred J. Muir.

#### Twin Falls

March has been very drouthy and feed is short. There is no water on the desert and the sheep are forced up above feed to obtain moisture.

A good yield of lambs has been re-

ported for this section. No contracting for fall delivery has been done yet.

Some wool has sold recently at from 30 to 34 cents.

A. L. Houghtelin.

\* \* \*

#### Spencer

Fine, warm weather prevailed during March. There were no storms and as a result it is dry now. We ought to have early grass and will if we get rain soon.

A 120 per cent lamb crop is the record here.

I have not heard of any contracting in lambs or wool.

John W. Hart

\* \* \*

#### Tetonia

The weather was very good during February and early March. Most of the ewes are in good condition for lambing, which starts March 20. I think the early spring feed will be good.

Coyotes are few in number in this district.

Wm. Henrie.

\* \* \*

#### Riggins

I sold out and left the Warren (Idaho) country and have bought into the sheep business at Riggins on the Salmon River. This is one of the best grass countries left in the Northwest. We have had a very mild winter here; the grass got a good start last fall and the range has stayed open all winter. All of the stockmen in this vicinity have two-thirds of their hay left over and all stock are in good condition. There has been no contracting yet.

Tom Carrey.

### MONTANA

The weather has been dry, and most of the time unusually warm, except for a cold period in the closing week. Grass growth was temporarily checked though cattle are being turned on to spring ranges. Shed lambing is progressing locally and without hindrance from the weather. Rain is needed over the greater part of the state. Live stock are in exceptionally good condi-



tion due to a mild open winter; and hay is plentiful, except in some eastern counties.

#### Turner

If the weather had been made to order, it could not have been better during February and March, and the ewe bands have not been in any better condition in the last twenty-five years. There should be plenty of grass for after lambing, which starts April 25, as the ground was very wet last fall. I have not had to feed any hay this winter at all.

There have been no wool buyers in this neck of the woods up to the present (March 8) and unless they show more interest than they have so far, it looks as though a lot of wool will go to the National Wool Exchange; for most of the old war horses that are in the game now have won back what storm and panic swept away in 1920 and can get along with an advance of half the valuation of the wool.

We have never had any government hunters in this neighborhood and coyotes are as numerous as ever.

George Petrie.

\* \* \*

#### Cascade

Since the first of the year we have had good weather, the best, in fact, that I have seen in the past thirty-five years. Feed conditions are only fair. We should have an excellent crop of lambs as the bucking season was one of the best in many years and the ewes are in good condition now (March 12).

Coyotes are not so bad as they were a few years ago. C. A. Dyar.

\* \* \*

#### McAllister

March weather has been extra fine. There is a lot of moisture in the ground and the grass is starting in good shape (March 23). With present weather continuing, feed will be good after lambing, which is scheduled to commence April 1.

"Square mouth" ewes have sold recently at \$15.50, but there has been no activity so far as wool or lambs are concerned. Henry W. Buford.

#### Great Falls

The fore part of March and up to the present, the 24th, unusually mild weather, with no precipitation at all, has prevailed. Feed conditions are good, however. Lambing has not yet commenced.

No contracts for wool or lambs have been made here recently.

Robert Cameron.

#### OREGON

Rain is generally needed for spring grain and pasture lands, and it has been a little too cold for the best growth lately; conditions have been ideal for lambing, however. Goat shearing has begun.

\* \* \*

#### Sisters

It has been just like summer the last few weeks and there is a lot of green grass. Lambing is over and a 100 per cent crop is reported. I have not heard of any action on wool or lambs up to the present, March 24.

Meredith Bailey, Jr.

\* \* \*

#### Lakeview

Sheep have come through the winter probably in better condition than ever before in the history of the business, and prospects are good for a big lamb crop as there was a lot of green feed during the breeding season. A few bands start lambing in sheds, but the bulk of the lambing is done on the range in May.

Feed is starting fine on the range now, but it is in need of moisture. Very little hay was fed here on account of the mildness of the winter. March has been very dry and warm.

C. D. Arthur.

#### WASHINGTON

Abundant sunshine and rather mild weather have been fine for live stock and ranges, though rain has been light and rather inadequate over the eastern portion. Wheat was frozen down on some exposed fields east of the mountains during the closing week. Sheep shearing has begun locally in the southeastern portion.

#### CALIFORNIA

Abnormally mild weather has prevailed and most of the time it has been dry with desiccating north winds over the interior northern valleys. Alfalfa hay cutting has begun locally and sheep shearing has begun generally, while large shipments of lambs have already been made. Pastures have shown a gradual deterioration or a retarded growth, due to the drought, though cattle and sheep are still reported good. Some grain in head in the Imperial Valley has been cut for hay. The weather has been excellent for lambing and shearing. Good rains occurred generally on April 4-5, relieving the drought.

#### Earlimart

Some rain fell during March and the pastures are good at this time (March 28). The lamb crop in Tulare County is very good; feed is good, and sheep are looking fine. Shearing is under way in the vicinity of Earlimart.

A few lambs have sold for \$9.00.

Isaac Laiz.

\* \* \*

#### Henleyville

The past month has been dry with a north wind prevailing. Feed has been good, however, until this week (March 24).

The yield of lambs is reckoned as fifteen per cent below that of last year. There has not been a buyer yet for them. Bred ewes have sold at \$16.00.

Alfred Kuhn.

#### NEVADA

Live stock have continued in good or excellent condition, having ample feed on the range, mostly within reach of foothill snow supplies. Grass has made a good growth generally and weeks, owing to scarcity of moisture. grain fields have afforded some local pasturage. Sheep have been moving from the desert ranges for a few. Sheep shearing has been in progress in many sections; and lambing has progressed on ranches rather generally.

(Continued on page 42)

# Are Twin Lambs Desirable?

By W. E. JOSEPH, Montana Experiment Station

Notwithstanding the fact that some range sheepmen regard twin lambs as more of a liability than an asset, results obtained at the Montana Experiment Station indicate that it is quite profitable to grow twin lambs if the ewes produce enough milk to give them a good start.

While this fact is fully appreciated in some sections of the range country and while some range sheepmen in other sections raise considerable numbers of twins there is still a tendency to dispose of the weak lamb in a pair of twins if there is no immediate opportunity to put it on another ewe. It is for the purpose of giving more definite information on this subject that the following results are presented.

These records were obtained from a lot of about 300 ewes which were pastured each summer in bands varying from 500 to 1100 depending on the amount of range available. The study was limited to these ewes since complete data were not available on a larger number. The feed available on the range was somewhat below average for range sheep for the three years of 1923, 1924, and 1925, especially during 1923. The data were obtained from the first three crops of lambs raised by these ewes at the respective ages of two, three, and four years.

The ewes were grade fine-wools. A large percentage of them shear fine wool and the remainder shear half-blood wool. They were range bred and range raised. They were "flushed" somewhat at breeding time. Most of the lambs were dropped in May. The final weights of lambs were taken in October.

## Forty Pounds More Lamb From a Pair of Twins Than From a Single

As indicated above, the range conditions while raising the first lamb crop (1923) were unfavorable. The crop of twins was also small. During that year the following record was obtained:

	No.	Av. Wt. of Lamb Raised Per Ewe
Lambs raised as singles.....	266	60.4 lbs.
Pairs of twins raised .....	13	95.8 lbs.

Twins from the first lamb crop averaged 35.4 pounds more (the two lambs taken together) than the singles even though the feed conditions during that summer were unfavorable. The lightest pair of twins weighed 75 pounds while the heaviest pair weighed 120 pounds.

During the second summer (1924) the feed conditions were more favorable. The ewes had also reached a sufficient stage of maturity to drop a larger percentage of twins and to produce more milk. The results obtained with the second and third lamb crops (1924 and 1925) are given in the following table:

	No.	Av. Wt. per Lamb per Ewe
Lambs raised as singles .....	262	72.8 lbs.
Pairs of twins raised .....	53	119.5 lbs.

	No.	Av. Wt. per Lamb per Ewe
Lambs raised as singles .....	226	71.5 lbs.
Pairs of twins raised .....	72	112.8 lbs.

In 1924 the lightest pair of twins weighed 95 pounds, which was two pounds more than the heaviest single lamb. The heaviest pair of twins weighed 154 pounds, or four pounds more per lamb than the average single lamb. In 1925 the lightest pair of twins weighed 79 pounds while the heaviest weighed 153 pounds or more per lamb than the average single. In 1924 the average pair of twins weighed 46.7 pounds more than the average single and in 1925 they weighed 41.3 pounds more than the average single.

A pertinent question may be asked regarding the size of single lambs that could be raised by a group of ewes that produced twins averaging approximately 115 pounds per pair. It was found that 38 ewes that raised twins in 1925 had raised single lambs in 1924. The single 38 lambs aver-

aged 74.9 pounds at the end of the season or 2.1 pounds more than the average of all of the single lambs for that year. In 1925 the 38 pairs of twins averaged 115 pounds or 2.2 pounds more than the average of all of the twins for that year. In other words it appears from these results that a range ewe giving an average flow of milk or more will produce approximately 40 pounds more lamb if she raises twins than if she raises a single lamb.

Another point that often comes up is the effect of raising twins one year on the ability of the ewe to raise lambs during a subsequent year. Of the 13 ewes that raised twin lambs in 1923 one ewe was removed from the flock, two did not lamb, two raised twin lambs and eight raised singles in 1924. The average amount of lamb raised by the ten ewes raising lambs was 81.7 pounds per ewe.

Fifty-two ewes that raised twin lambs in 1924 produced an average of 88.4 pounds of lamb per ewe in 1925 which is seven pounds above the average for all of the ewes raising lambs that year. Of the 52 ewes 24 raised twins and 28 raised single lambs. These data indicate that there was no reduction below average lamb production as a result of having raised twins the previous year. They also indicate that many of these ewes were able to raise twins satisfactorily during two successive years.

Another important point is the effect of twins on losses of lambs. In 1923, of 290 ewes that dropped single lambs, 36 lost their lambs; of 17 ewes that dropped twins 4 lost both lambs. In 1924 of 263 ewes that dropped a single lamb one ewe lost her lamb; of 72 ewes that dropped twins every ewe raised one or both of her own lambs. In 1925 of 241 ewes that dropped single lambs 15 lost their own lambs; of 117 ewes that dropped twins five lost both lambs, the remainder raising one or both lambs. At the ages of three and four years the percentage of ewes

(Continued on page 21)

The following photographs and legends tell their own story. The data on production are based entirely on the records made by range ewes of grade fine-wool breeding at ages of two, three, and four years, covering the period 1923, 1924, and 1925, in case three years are considered.

Prices are those actually received, the wool having been sold

in graded lines. Prices of lambs are based on the selling price per pound of wether lambs.

These results together with those given in the accompanying article illustrate the possible error and loss which may result from using wool yields as the sole basis for culling ewes.



220R produced an average of 11.4 pounds of wool for three years, but she dropped one lamb during the entire period which cut her average lamb production down to 20 pounds. Average gross receipts \$6.90 per year.



364R raised 154 pounds of lamb and 9 pounds of wool in 1924, which actually sold for \$19.42. Note the strong muzzle, chest and capacity, straight back, and great middle. A splendid type of ewe, but not up to the average of the band in wool production.



50R gave an average annual production of 65 pounds of lamb and 9.5 pounds of wool which actually sold at an average of \$11.00. The production of this ewe was practically the average for the band for each item of wool and lamb. Her strong point is her regular breeding and consistent production. For explanation of mediocrity compare the type with 346R.



147R produced an average of 115 pounds of lamb and 7.7 pounds of wool for three years. The average selling price of her product was \$15.53 per year. She produced twin lambs three years in succession. Under a system of culling based wholly on wool production, this ewe would probably have been thrown out even though she was one of the heavy producers in the band.



dropping twins that lost both lambs was at least no greater than the percentage of ewes dropping singles that lost their lambs.

If a lamb is dropped as one of a pair of twins and raised as a single what effect does the somewhat less favorable start have on the final weight of the lamb as compare with lambs dropped and raised as singles? In 1923 eleven lambs dropped as one of a pair of twins and raised as singles weighed 55 pounds while 254 lambs dropped and raised as singles weighed 60.7 pounds. In 1924 nineteen lambs dropped as one of a pair of twins and raised as singles weighed 71.8 pounds while 244 lambs dropped and raised as singles weighed 74.1 pounds. In 1925 forty lambs dropped as one of a pair of twins and raised as singles weighed 69.8 pounds while 190 lambs dropped and raised as singles weighed 72 pounds. While a lamb is slightly handicapped by being born as one of a pair of twins it seems that the difference in its final weight is only 2 or 3 pounds if dropped and raised by ewes at ages of three or four years.

An advantage which often more than offsets the above disadvantage is the possibility of giving one of a pair of twins to a ewe that loses her own lamb, thus increasing the number of ewes that raise lambs and thereby increasing the total amount of lamb raised.

On the basis of these results with grade fine wool ewes at ages of three or four years, income on lambs sold at the same price per pound would be approximately 55 per cent more per ewe raising twins than on ewes raising single lambs. Naturally it costs more to raise large numbers of twins and during some seasons the price per pound at which twin lambs sell is lower due to lower condition and smaller size. There are few conditions, however, under which the advantage of 55 per cent in weight would be wholly discounted by these two items.

It is recommended, therefore, that, if pasture and feed conditions are average or better, range ewes be "flushed" in some degree, at least, at breeding

time; also that a definite effort be made to save all twins dropped by ewes that are able to give them a fair start. This recommendation applies partic-

ularly to ewes after their second year. No data on range ewes are available to indicate how old the ewes may be before this practice becomes unprofitable.

## The Sheep Section at the Inter-Mountain Live Stock Show

"It was one of the best Rambouillet shows that I ever judged, and the class in ram lambs was, I believe, the best I ever saw." —A. G. Butterfield.

"Taken as a whole, it was a very fine Rambouillet show for the state of Utah—something to be proud of."

—F. N. Bullard.

Such authoritative statements as the above leave little to be added in connection with the sheep exhibit at the Inter-Mountain Live Stock Show held at North Salt Lake, Utah, from March 27th to 31st.

In the Rambouillet division twelve breeders had entered 142 head in the various classes. The Madsen and Candland flocks from Mt. Pleasant, Utah, were awarded every prize except two: John S. Dalton of Parowan, Utah, won third place in the aged ram class and the Day Farms Company, also of Parowan, took third position in the flock class. There was quite a delegation of Rambouillets from the Parowan district, but they were not in show shape. They were not so fat nor in as well fitted as the winning flocks.

Next to the Rambouillets, the display of Boys' Pure Bred Hampshire Sheep clubs was the outstanding feature of the sheep show. Four clubs competed with exceptionally good sheep. The most striking entry was a ram lamb that weighed 50 pounds at 38 days. This lamb was bred by Rivas Thomas of the Heber Boys' Hampshire Sheep Club and according to the prediction of Mr. Butterfield, if it is raised to maturity, it will take its place among the show winners at the leading exhibits of the country. It is reported that some of the Hampshire breeders in attendance at the Inter-mountain Show cast longing eyes at this lamb and that an offer of \$250 was made for it. So far as is known at

this time, the offer was not accepted and the lamb is being groomed for the International by the Boys' Club.

The youthful breeders themselves were keenly interested and alert on different phases of the sheep business, and could argue like their fathers on whether or not fitting sheep pays, and other shepherd problems. Some of the boys' clubs will make their initial consignments to the National Ram Sale next fall.

### THE AWARDS

#### Breeding Sheep

Judge—A. G. Butterfield, Enterprise, Oregon.

#### Rambouillets

(The comments on the prize-winning individuals were made by F. N. Bullard of Woodland, California, prominent breeder and president of the American Rambouillet Association.)

**Exhibitors:** Branch Agricultural College, Cedar City, Utah.  
W. D. Candland & Sons, Mt. Pleasant, Utah.  
P. A. Clark, Parowan, Utah.  
John S. Dalton, Parowan, Utah.  
Day Farms Co., Parowan, Utah.  
W. S. Hansen, Collinston, Utah.  
John K. Madsen, Mt. Pleasant, Utah.  
L. N. Marsden, Parowan, Utah.  
North Canyon Sheep Co., Bountiful, Utah.  
J. H. Seely & Sons Co., Mt. Pleasant, Utah.  
Southern Utah Rambouillet Breeders Assn., Parowan, Utah.  
Randall Wilcox, Parowan, Utah.

#### Aged Ram:

First—John K. Madsen.  
Second—W. D. Candland.  
Third—John S. Dalton.

Mr. Madsen's ram which was the champion of the show, was placed first on account of his excellent fleece. He was exceptionally well covered and the wool was so evenly distributed that no matter where one might look it was the same. According to Mr. Madsen, this ram has never been beaten as champion ram.

#### Yearling Ram:

First and Second—W. D. Candland.  
Third—John K. Madsen.

In this class the award was given on quality as much as anything else. The ram had a very uniform type of body as well as a very good fleece.

**Ram Lamb:**

First, second and third—John K. Madsen.

There were forty entries in this class and it was quite remarkable that out of all of them the three prizes went to one man. The three winners were very uniform upstanding rams; and it was surprising how many good lambs there were that did not get inside the money. Mr. Butterfield remarked that he thought that the class was one of the largest and hardest he had undertaken to judge in a number of years.

**Aged Ewe:**

First—John K. Madsen.  
Second and third—W. D. Candland.

This ewe won on her fleece, the same as did the aged ram.

**Yearling Ewe:**

First—W. D. Candland.  
Second and third—John K. Madsen.

Mr. Candland's ewe that won first place in this class was also champion of the show. Her wonderful spring of rib, uniform body as well as good fleece gave her this position.

**Ewe Lamb:**

First, second and third—John K. Madsen.

The ewe lamb class was not so large in number as the ram lamb class, but the judge stated that he believed when it came to the final selection, it was harder to decide which should be first than in the ram lamb class. Mr. Madsen had four very outstanding ewe lambs, just as outstanding as his ram lambs.

**Pen of Four Lambs, either sex, bred by exhibitor:**

First—John K. Madsen.  
Second—W. D. Candland.  
Third—John K. Madsen.

**Pen of Four Lambs, either sex, get of one sire:**

First—John K. Madsen.  
Second—W. D. Candland.  
Third—John K. Madsen.

In the two above classes there were three pens of three. They were very outstanding and so far as I could see, there was not very much difference between them. However, the judge said that he always gives ram lambs the preference over ewe lambs.

**Flock, Yearling Ram: Two Yearling Ewes, and two Ewe Lambs:**

First—W. D. Candland.  
Second—John K. Madsen.  
Third—Day Farms Company.

Owing to the fact that the catalog listing of this class called for a yearling ram. Mr. Madsen was unable to use his champion ram in his flock. The Candland flock exhibit was a very fine won and worthy of its place. Madsen's group taking second place was another exceptionally good flock.

Champion Ram: John K. Madsen.  
Champion Ewe: W. D. Candland.

### HAMPSHIRE

In the Hampshire section, Rilvas Thomas, one of the Heber City club boys, had the champion ram, and won first on aged ram and flock, and third on his yearling ewe. John Nebeker of Stockton, Utah, took first and third places in the yearling ram class and first on both pens of lambs. Earl Carlisle, another of the Heber boys, obtained second prize on his yearling ram. Wrathall Mathews, a Grantsville club member, obtained first place on his aged ewe; Delbert Ryan of the Heber Club second in the same class; and Robert Broadhead, also of Heber third. Wendell Duke of Heber had the first prize yearling ewe and the Heber Hampshire Club took second and third places in both lamb classes.

### BOYS' PURE BRED SHEEP CLUB SPECIALS

**Exhibitors:**

Heber City Boys' Hampshire Sheep Club.  
Grantsville Boys' Hampshire Sheep Club.  
Grantsville High School Pure Bred Sheep Club.  
Payson High School Pure Bred Sheep Club.

**Best Ewe and Lamb:**

First—Heber Hampshire Club (Frank Edginton).  
Second—Grantsville Sheep Club (Wrathall Mathews).  
Third and fourth—Heber Hampshire Club (Wilby Young and Delbert Ryan).

**Best Breeding Ewe:**

The awards were the same as above.

### FAT SHEEP

**Boys' and Girls' Best Fat Lamb:**

First—Dean K. Adams, Layton, Utah.  
Second—Donald Adams, Layton, Utah.

**Individual Fat Lamb:**

Mildred F. Rich, Salt Lake City, Utah.

This was a Hampshire lamb that weighed 140 pounds and afterwards sold to Hallmark Lunch of Salt Lake at \$1.00 a pound.

**Carloads Fat Lambs:**

First—S. Grover Rich, Salt Lake City (Grand Champion).

Second—Michael Barclay, Blackfoot, Idaho.

Third—Dell Adams, Layton, Utah.

Cudahy and Company bought the grand champion car of fat lambs at 15 cents a pound. The average weight of the lambs was 102 pounds.

### COAST CARRIERS ISSUE NEW RATE ON SMALL LOTS OF PUREBRED SHEEP

Arrangements have been made by the Southern Pacific company to transport registered live stock for breeding purposes for one-half the regular tariff rate, according to an announcement made March 19, 1926, by G. W. Luce, freight traffic manager for the company. All Pacific Coast carriers have joined in the new rate.

The reduction, applying to movements of live stock in less than carload lots, is being made by the roads in order to encourage the development of purebred live stock in the West and to assist stockmen who wish to improve their herds through the use of registered animals.

The new rate applies to pure blooded horses, cattle and sheep, but excludes race horses. The rate will apply only when certificates of registration for each animal are furnished by the shipper.

### HIGH LAMBING RECORD IN NORTHERN WYOMING

Snyder Brothers at Lovell, Wyoming, are making what is believed to be the earliest and most prolific lambing record in the history of northern Wyoming. They are lambing 13,000 ewes, and thus far have achieved an average of 140 per cent. Indications are that the undertaking will be completed on that basis. This is being written on March 19, which indicates the season, and the result is made possible because of exceptional shed facilities. However, the weather is such that similar results would have followed in the open, in the opinion of the state treasurer, who is a member of the firm.

L. S.

# The American Wool Manufacturing Industry

An address delivered at the Convention of the National Wool Growers Association at Boise, Idaho on January 19, 1926, by Dr. Walter Humphreys, Secretary of the National Association of Wool Manufacturers, Boston, Mass.

The subject assigned to me on your program is "The American Wool Manufacturing Industry." The status of this industry for the past two years, with the exception of comparatively brief periods, has been one of greatly restricted business with much unemployment. The annual reports of mills for 1924 exhibited great losses, and, it is reported, those for 1925 will show even greater ones, due to the continued part-time operation and to the tremendous shrinkage in the values of raw and partly manufactured wool. Men who have been in the industry for many years remark that this period has been the worst since the civil war. Business in the industry has, however, been somewhat better in some divisions and there is, upon the whole, a more optimistic attitude than existed a year ago. In order to understand the present conditions of the industry it is essential first to glance over its past development, an interesting subject upon which one is tempted to tarry, explaining conditions, but the present occasion will permit only a brief summary.

The American wool manufacturing industry comprises two quite distinct processes of converting raw wool into finished products: the carding system, sometimes termed the woolen system, uses wools of medium and shorter staples, while the combing more generally known as the worsted system, uses wools of medium and longer length.

Originally, only the very long and comparatively coarse wools, such as the Leicestershire, could be used in worsteds. The product was of very limited range and the business of relatively small volume, but improvements in the combing machinery made possible the use of finer wools of shorter staple. This change opened the whole field of wool fabric manufacture to the worsted branch, and the new types of this fabric met with such favor from the public that the worsted branch of the

industry expanded greatly from about 1880 to 1910. In the beginning of this period the value of woolen products was four and one-half times that of worsteds; about 1900 they were on a parity, and in 1910 the worsted products were in value three times that of the woolens. During these years many of the former carding mills were converted entirely, or partly, to the making of worsteds; and, except for such products as blankets, overcoatings, and certain suitings, carded woolen goods progressively declined in popularity until in the first decade of the present century the demand for woolens in comparison with that for worsteds was at its lowest point.

The primary cause of the restricted sales and unprofitable business was obvious enough to those familiar with the trend of fashion and the preferences of the public. It was in recognition of the evident change in popular prejudice that in many mills machinery of the carding system was replaced by worsted machinery. \*\*\*

At this point, to avoid any misapprehension, I must digress for a moment to say that the organization, which I have the honor to represent, is as much interested in the carded as in the worsted branch of the industry, and includes in its membership very much the largest part of the carding machinery affiliated with any trade organization. I am therefore speaking without prejudice for or against either branch of the industry. What follows will, I think, make this quite clear.

About the year 1909 a very remarkable change of interest in carded woolen goods began to be manifest. In the changes of fashion it was inevitable that sooner or later carded woolens would again come into popular favor. And just then a combination of circumstances conspired to hasten the movement.

In the autumn of 1907 a very severe financial panic occurred in the United States, which caused a severe decline

in the prices of nearly all commodities, including wool. It was, however, of comparatively short duration. By the autumn of the next year recovery of values had begun. At that time Congress had under consideration the tariff bill of 1909, and its wool schedule was practically unchanged from that which had for many years been in effect. As the prices of wool advanced after the decline which they had suffered in the 1907 panic, it was alleged that this enhancement was due to increasing the rates of duty, which, in fact, had not been raised. The gains in the price of wool were merely a partial return to those preceding the panic.

By reason of the previous neglect of carded woolen goods, the raw materials suitable for use in their manufacture had, for lack of demand, in accordance with economic laws, fallen to a relatively lower price level than the longer staple wools required for worsted goods, and were at first slower in recovering from the panic depression. It was, therefore, possible to produce a carded fabric at a considerably lower cost than a worsted one of similar fineness of wool and weight of cloth.

This combination of a reaction in fashion in favor of carded goods, and the possibility of selling them at a disproportionately low price, and the prejudice which had been created against one branch of the industry, inaugurated the renaissance of the carding industry. For the next few years, under that same much maligned old Schedule "K," this branch continued progressively to improve.

Then came the war, with the need for blankets and military clothing, for which the carding process is particularly adapted, when aged cards and mules which had been idle for years were put to work and acquired a market value much beyond that of their lusty youth.

Meanwhile the ever increasing use of automobiles and the growing popu-



larity of golf and other outdoor sports enhanced the popularity of tweeds and cheviots. The carding industry was again ascendant, and for the first time in nearly half a century the growth and expansion of the worsted branch was stopped, and that happened which none of the present generation of woolen manufacturers had ever seen before: carding woolen mills operating to capacity while worsted mills were wholly idle or on short time. This has been the situation until within the last few months, in which there has been some increase of activity in combing mills, although not to the extent that it may be called normal, with perhaps some decrease in the sale of woolens.

The worsted division having previously become so important a part of the whole wool manufacturing industry, the considerable amount of unemployment it has experienced in recent years means that, notwithstanding the success of many carding mills, the production of the industry as a whole, and consequently the consumption of wool, has been very much below normal, and distinctly unprofitable.

Many and various reasons have been given for this; among the principal explanations may be noted:

Money expended for the purchase and upkeep of automobiles, radio outfits, and universal attendance at moving picture exhibitions have necessitated economy in other expenditures, chiefly in clothing.

Radical change in the styles of feminine apparel dictate the use of silk, artificial silk and furs in place of wool to an enormous extent, while such few garments of wool as are still worn are of such abbreviated dimensions that the quantity of wool required for their manufacture is almost negligible. One manufacturer said to another recently: "Adam and Eve in the beginning wore no clothing. After eating the apple they clothed themselves. Judging by present appearances, it is almost time to pass the fruit again."

Although the forecasting of business conditions seems to have become one of our favorite indoor sports, it is not

intended to adventure here into the field of what Professor Irving Fisher has termed "economic clairvoyance." This hasty sketch is the merest outline of the conditions which have prevailed within the wool manufacturing industry. Assumptions or inferences regarding future trends are left to more discerning minds.

There is an element which has greatly complicated the problem of production in the wool industry, and which unquestionably has had a serious influence in the curtailment of consumption, that is, the great instability of wool prices, the violent fluctuations in the price of raw materials in recent years.

Sudden and extreme declines in prices have caused enormous losses by the lessened values of the large stocks of raw and partially manufactured materials which are necessarily in the possession of manufacturers at all times. They have also caused the great additional losses from the curtailment of orders and paralysis of business which follows upon rapidly declining prices and lack of confidence in values. On the other hand the very rapid enhancement of prices to the highest figures attained have created a resentful attitude upon the part of consumers, culminating in the so-called "buyers' strike," restricting sales, stopping machinery and throwing employees into idleness.

Contrary to a belief which some of your members may entertain, manufacturers have just as much dread of an era of low prices for wool as have the growers. This is because the low level of prices is a consequence of idle machinery, and idle machinery entails not only loss of profits, but also the heavy out-of-pocket of overhead expenses which cannot be stopped in periods of temporary idleness of plants.

In the ordinary transactions of purchase and sale buyers naturally try to buy at the lowest going market prices. They want to be sure, however, that their competitors do not acquire stock upon more advantageous terms. The seller, in turn, tries to obtain for his product as high a price as possible.

This bargaining within the range of normal day to day fluctuations is inevitable and is not a matter for serious concern. But I want to dispel from your minds the idea that the mills have any desire to "break the market" for the purchase of their supplies of raw material. It is only necessary to consider the ruinous consequences to themselves to realize that they have just as great a stake in the stability of values as you yourselves have.

Manufacturers are, however, equally apprehensive about the enhancement of price which speculative activity produces, because the necessary increase in the prices of finished products unfailingly narrows the market and the reduced consumption can never afterwards be made up.

There are two facts about wool clothing which must be kept in mind. One is that when there is any economizing to be done in a family, it is generally applied first to clothing, and, I might gallantly add, to the men. The other is that there is a very elastic limit to the useful life of good wool clothing. Very few wool garments are ever worn out while in use by their first wearers. In times of prosperity and of moderate costs, they may be passed on or discarded after a season's wear, but when there is occasion for economy, or when the owner is resentful about high prices, the old suit does duty for an indefinitely longer time. It may get somewhat out of shape, the colors may fade or grow rusty, but despite these venerable indications, the prime purposes of warmth and decency are still served. It is because of these two facts that consumption of wool goods can be decreased enormously without any evidence of nakedness upon the part of the people.

Now it is to your interest and that of the weaver and the garment maker to overcome such an excessive development of economy which may become, as it has in recent years, an ingrowing malady. A prime requisite to that end is a reasonable stability in the price level, which should be high enough to be profitable to the growers

(Continued on page 41)

# Results of Experiments in Breeding for Fleece Improvement

In this investigation of factors which influence fleece weights of Rambouillet sheep a total of 1,496 fleeces were studied in considerable detail. They were sheared in the years 1921, 1923 and 1924, from purebred Rambouillet sheep that were handled under practical range conditions on the grazing lands of the Sheep Experiment Station, Dubois, Idaho. Eighty per cent of these fleeces were sheared from sheep that were one to five years old, twelve per cent were from six year olds, and eight per cent were from sheep seven years old or older. The fleeces from the sheep older than one year were sheared at exactly one year's growth, while the fleeces from yearlings had grown from 12 to 14 months. The average weight of all these 1,496 fleeces at the shearing floor was 10.75 pounds. Every one of them was tested for yield of clean wool and they averaged 3.95 pounds scoured wool, a yield of about 38 per cent, or a shrinkage of 62 per cent in grease and dirt. The grease made up 15 per cent and the dirt 47 per cent of the raw wool.

In terms of Bradford spinning counts 61 per cent of these fleeces ranged in fineness from 60s to 64s, inclusive, the mode for fineness being very clearly midway between these two extremes, or 62s, according to the Bureau of Animal Industry method of using the Bradford spinning count system. In the language of the Boston wool market 43 per cent of these fleeces would grade half-blood, 37 per cent fine medium and 20 per cent strictly fine.

The density of the majority of these fleeces was regarded as quite satisfactory. There was 34 per cent of them that scored from 91 to 100 per cent of a perfect density, 39 per cent scored from 81 to 90, and 25 per cent from 71 to 80, leaving only about two per cent as low or lower than 70 per cent of a perfect density.

Considering the facts that these sheep were handled under rather hard range conditions and sheared at the time that their fleeces had grown just

one year the length of staple they produced is regarded very good. About 16 per cent of the fleeces measured from 2.6 to 3.5 inches long, 49 per cent were from 2.1 to 2.5 inches, 33 per cent were 1.6 to 2.0 inches, and only about 2 per cent were as short or shorter than 1.5 inches.

In presenting the relationships between fleece weights and the various factors and characteristics concerning these sheep the weight of the clean, scoured fleeces is used. This was determined by a reliable system of sample scouring. The details of this process will be found in United States Department of Agriculture Bulletin 1100, "A Method of Determining Grease and Dirt in Wool," except that the extraction of the water from the freshly washed wool of these fleeces was accomplished by the use of a centrifugal washing machine dryer instead of the clothes wringer specified in the bulletin. The coefficient of correlation between the greasy weight and clean weight of these fleeces is only 0.62 and it is therefore considered essential that the clean weight of these fleeces be used as the basis for this study.

The indices used for expressing these results are in terms of percentage. This percentage index is based on the average clean-wool fleece weight. If a certain group of scoured fleeces average 2.72 pounds the weight index for this group is determined as follows: 2.72 times 100 divided by 3.95 equals the weight index, 68.86, which is the per cent of the average clean fleece weight. Likewise, if another group of fleeces average a clean weight of 4.72 pounds we calculate 4.72 times 100 divided by 3.95 equals the weight index of 119.49. A group of fleeces averaging 3.95 pounds would therefore have an index of 100. All weights are expressed in pounds, length of staple in inches and fineness of fiber in Bradford spinning counts. All scores of the fleece

and body characteristics are in terms of the percentage of a perfect score.

The object of this discussion is to suggest a few of the points that seem most significant.

**1. "The influence of age of sheep on scoured fleece weights of Rambouillet sheep."** The three-year-old ewes sheared the heaviest fleeces of clean wool, their average being 13 per cent greater than the average for the entire group. The fleeces from ewes seven years old or older averaged 15 per cent below the group average and their fleeces averaged the lightest. We are accustomed to think that the yearlings shear the heaviest but in this case their scoured fleece weights were nearly 8 per cent below the average and with the exception of the seven-year-old group they were the lightest in spite of the fact that they had grown for about 13 or 14 months while all the fleeces from ewes older than the yearlings had grown exactly one year. The reason for the six-year-olds shearing five per cent more than the five-year-olds is not clear to us, but on the whole the chart shows that the trend is up from yearlings to three-year-olds and down from three-year-olds to seven-year-olds.

**2. "Influence of length of staple on scoured fleece weights of Rambouillet sheep."** Fleeces of clean wool having staple as short or shorter than two inches averaged a weight less than the average of the entire group and those measuring over two inches weighed more than the average of the whole group. There is a very consistent rise in the weight of clean wool as the length increases. Fleeces having staple over three inches long were 22 per cent heavier than the average and those having staple an inch and a half or less were 17 per cent lighter than the average. In Rambouillet sheep, length of staple is one of the most important factors we have discovered that causes heavier fleece weights.

**3. "Influence of fineness of fleece**

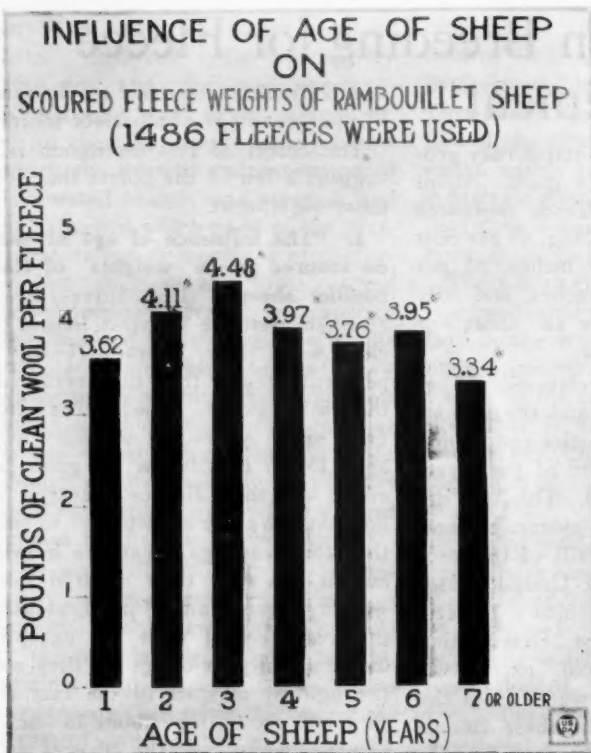


CHART NO. 1.

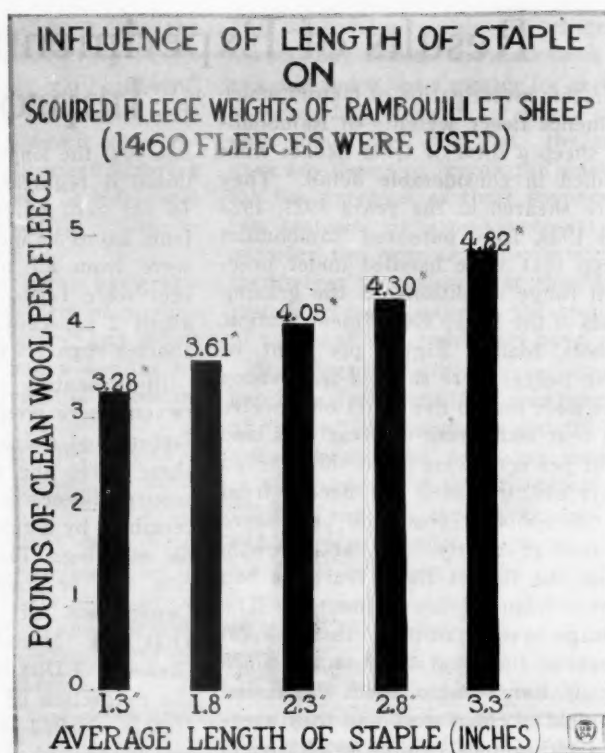


CHART NO. 2.

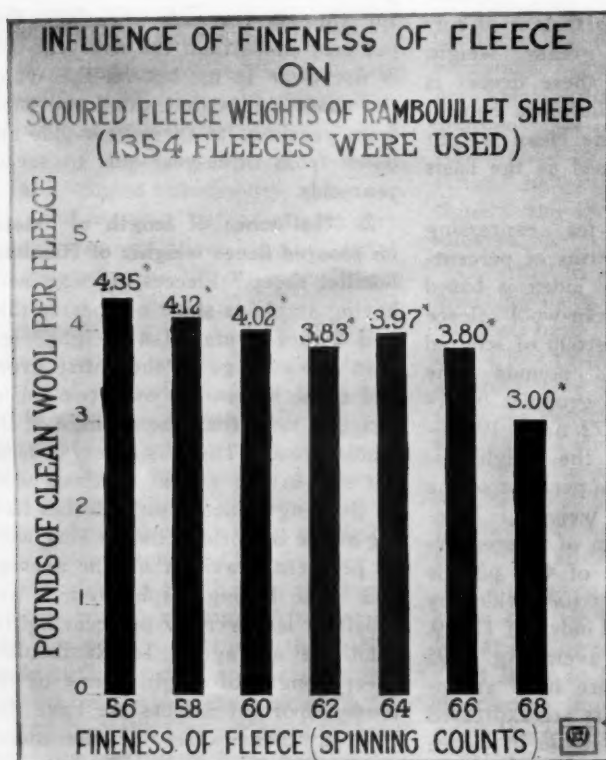


CHART NO. 3.

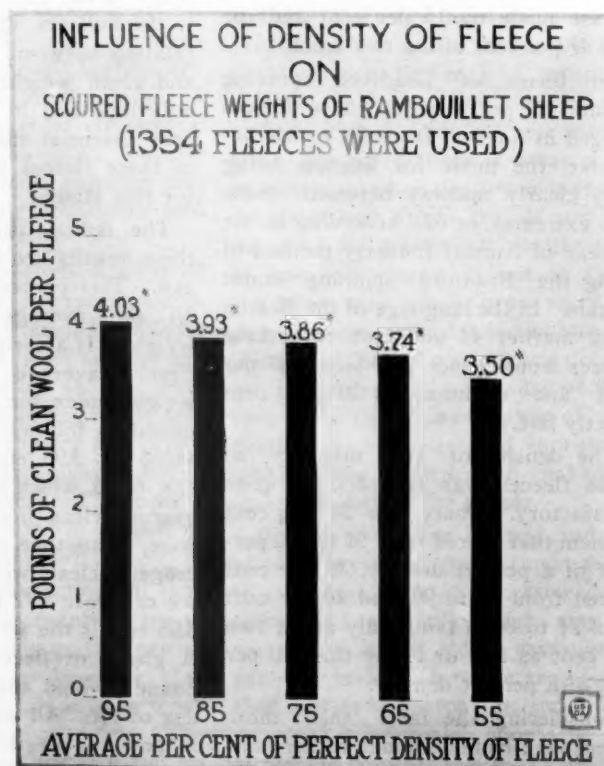


CHART NO. 4.



on scoured fleece weights of Rambouillet sheep." Fleeces that graded the coarsest (low-half-blood, or 56s), were 10 per cent heavier than the average and those grading the very finest, 68 or finer, weighed 24 per cent less than the average. The half-blood fleeces (56 to 60) weighed more than the average and the fine and fine medium (62s to 68s), about as low or lower than the average. The general trend is toward lighter scoured fleece weights as the fineness is increased.

4. "Influence of density of fleece on scoured weight of Rambouillet fleeces." The densest fleeces averaged the heaviest and the openest fleeces the lightest and there is a consistent tendency for scoured fleece weights to drop off as the fleeces become less dense. However, the influence of density on yield of wool is much less than length of staple. Those averaging 95 per cent of a perfect density yield about two per cent more than the average. Fleeces having about 85 per cent of a perfect density weigh about the same as the

average of the whole group. When the density averages 75 per cent we find the fleeces weighing two per cent less than the average; at a density of 65 the weight is five per cent under the average and at 55 per cent density weight is 11 per cent below the average. It therefore pays to select for density, although it offers much less of a leverage for increasing wool yields than we have in length of staple.

5. "Influence of per cent of grease on scoured weight of Rambouillet fleeces." The per cent of grease does not seem to have very much effect on the average yield of clean wool per fleece. Those averaging about 10 per cent of grease weighed only about one-half per cent more than the average; with 15 per cent grease they averaged a weight of one and one-half per cent less; with 20 per cent grease the weight of clean wool averaged three per cent above the general average and when the grease percentage went up around 25 the weight of clean wool went down six per cent be-

low the average for the whole 1,496 fleeces. According to these results the chief point in selecting for grease content in Rambouillet fleeces is to be sure not to get them overloaded with grease.

6. "Influence of per cent of dirt on scoured weight of Rambouillet fleeces." The cleanest fleeces (those having an average of about 30 per cent of dirt) weighed (in clean wool) 22 per cent above the average and the dirtiest fleeces (60 per cent dirty) had scoured weights 14 per cent below the average. Fleeces having no more than about 42.5 per cent of dirt weighed well above the average and those having more than 42.5 per cent of dirt weighed no more than about the average and in most cases less than the average. From this it should be safe to conclude that many of the sheep that are naturally producing the dirtiest fleeces should be culled and on the other hand when the grower is selecting the sheep that naturally produce the cleanest fleeces he is pretty sure to be selecting some of

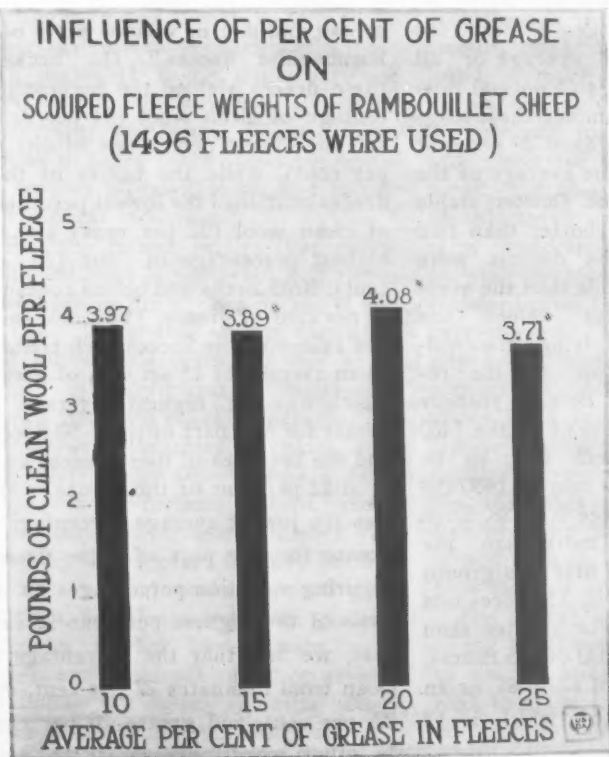


CHART NO. 5.

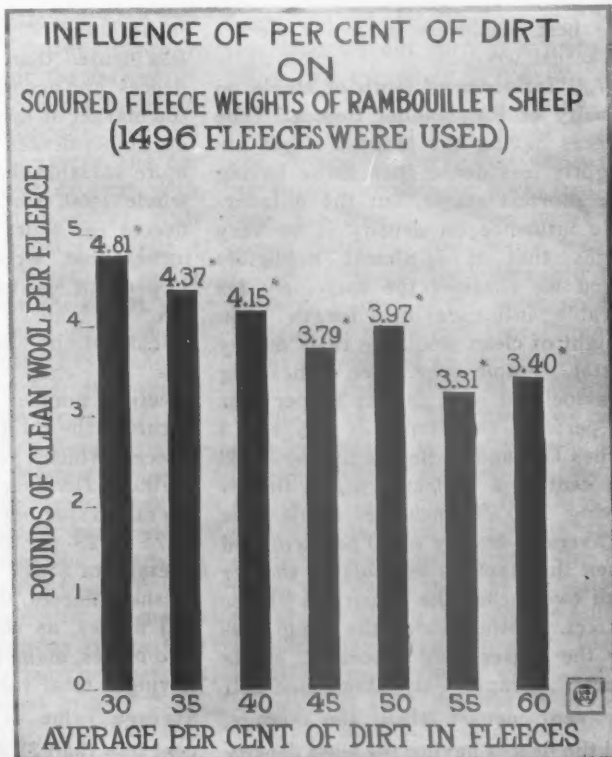


CHART NO. 6.

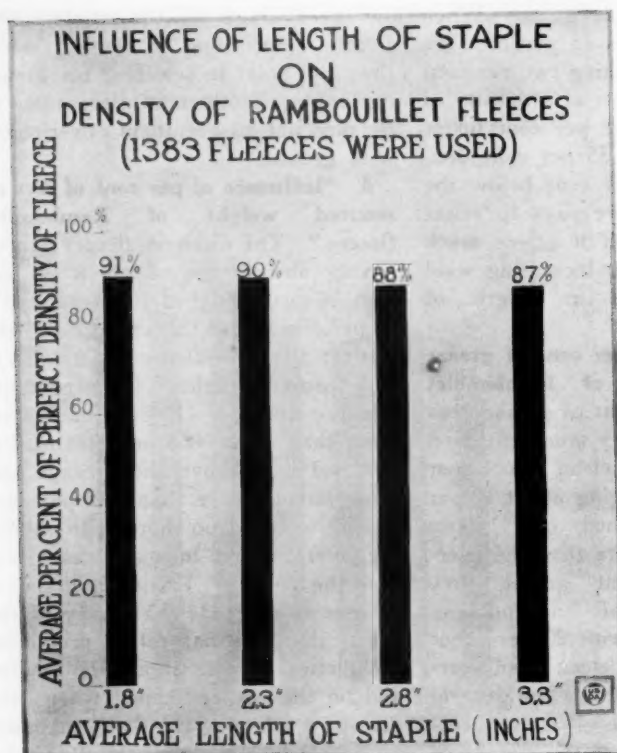


CHART NO. 7.

the best producers of heavy fleeces of actual wool.

**7. "Influence of length of staple on density of Rambouillet fleeces."** The fleeces having the longest staple are slightly less dense than those having the shortest staple, but the unfavorable influence on density is so very slight that it is almost negligible when we consider the extremely favorable influence of length on weight of clean wool, the real "money getter." Staple over three inches long is associated with density 87 per cent of perfect; the staple of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to 3 inches is found in fleeces averaging 88 per cent of a perfect density; fleeces having 2 to  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches of staple have an average density of 90 per cent and when the staple is as short or shorter than two inches the density is 91 per cent perfect. In other words, the group having the densest and shortest staple fleeces averages only about one-half per cent denser than the average, and the fleeces having the least density and longest staple fleeces (over three

inches) are only about 4 per cent less dense than the average of all fleeces, and according to a normal Boston market of last summer these longest staple fleeces averaged 29 per cent more valuable than the average of the whole 1460, while the shorter staple fleeces (as short or shorter than two inches) that were the densest were 12 per cent less valuable than the average of all. These values are calculated by multiplying the values of each group by the respective number of fleeces, thereby securing the total value of all the 1460 fleeces, which you will find to be \$7706.35. Dividing this sum by 1460 the average value per fleece is \$5.28. Then \$6.75 is 29 per cent more than the average of \$5.28. The first two groups of short fleeces, that is, 32 fleeces and 483 fleeces, as short or shorter than two inches, make a total of 515 fleeces, having a total value of \$2391.35, or an average value of \$4.64, which is 12 cent less than \$5.28.

**8. "Average per cent of clean wool,**

**AVERAGE PER CENT OF  
CLEAN WOOL, GREASE AND DIRT IN VARIOUS PARTS  
OF  
50 RAMBOUILLET FLEECES**

	% CLEAN WOOL	% GREASE	% DIRT
NECKS	44	13	43
SHOULDERS	42	14	44
SIDES	35	15	46
BACKS	38	15	47
RUMPS	40	15	45
BREECHES	42	12	51
BELLIES	32	13	55
WHOLE FLEECES	44	14	47

THESE FLEECES OF WOOL WERE GROWN UNDER RANGE  
CONDITIONS IN 1921 AND 1922 AT THE  
UNITED STATES SHEEP  
EXPERIMENT STATION

DUBOIS, IDAHO.

CHART NO. 8.

**grease and dirt in various parts of 50 Rambouillet fleeces."** The necks of these fleeces yielded the highest percentage of clean wool (44 per cent), and the lowest percentage of dirt (43 per cent), while the bellies of these fleeces contained the lowest percentage of clean wool (32 per cent) and the highest percentage of dirt (55 per cent). Both necks and bellies contained 13 per cent of grease. The sides, backs and rumps of the fleeces each contained an average of 15 per cent of grease, which was the highest average of grease for any part of these 50 fleeces, and the breeches of these fleeces averaged 12 per cent of the grease, which was the lowest average percentage of grease for any part of these fleeces. Figuring variation percentages on the basis of the highest per cent in each case, we find that the percentage of clean wool fluctuates 27 per cent, dirt 22 per cent, and grease 20 per cent. In other words, grease is the most constant of the three factors.

## Fooling the Farmer

It is very interesting to note the efforts being made in Congress to pass some cure-all bill which will make the American farmer prosperous and happy. As a farmer, I am fearful that some of these proposed bills may become law and bring disaster to the entire agricultural industry of the nation. Every bill proposed has been predicated on two false assumptions: First, that everyone except the farmer is benefited by the tariff; second, that there is a foreign market for our surplus agricultural products.

The tariff law now in existence, places every product of the farm on the protected list, except hides, and puts on the free list practically every important material used by the farmer in his agricultural operations. Thus, there is a duty on wheat of 42 cents per bushel, on corn 15 cents; barley 20 cents; potatoes 50 cents per hundred; butter 12 cents per pound; sugar \$1.75 per hundred; flaxseed 40 cents per bushel; eggs eight cents per dozen; beans, \$1.75 per hundred; and every other agricultural product carries similar duties. If these duties are not high enough, the farmer is largely to blame, for the Senate Finance Committee in fixing these duties endeavored to give all possible support to our agricultural industries.

But the farmer replies that everything he buys is protected and therefore high in price. Let us see if this is true. Under the present tariff law the following articles are free of all duty: all agricultural implements, plows, harrows, rakes, binders, harvesters, mowers, threshing machines, wagons, carts, cream separators, etc., binding twine, Portland cement, chalk, coal, cocoa, coffee, leather gloves, rubber, ice, iron ore, leather, harness, boots, shoes, limestone, wood pulp, needles, petroleum, kerosene, gasoline, shingles, lumber, barbed wire, fertilizers, and hundreds of other articles, including the more common drugs, such as iodine and quinine.

Any fair-minded person who examines the tariff law must admit that an

honest effort was made to make the farmer sell in a protected market and buy in a free market. To this the farmer answers that he does not get the benefit of these duties. This is just a voice of protest speaking without the facts. My opinion is that the farmer is as much benefited by the tariff as are all manufacturing industries combined. The tariff on wheat materially raises the price of all American wheat of the same grade as Canadian wheat—this quantity amounts to about 250 million bushels. On sugar he gets the full protection of the law most of the time. On linseed he has the full protection of 40 cents per bushel. On beans, peanuts, clover seed, peas, he is benefited to the extent of the tariff; on wool he gets from 50 to 100 per cent of the full duty; on potatoes this year he got the benefit of the tariff; on butter his protection ranges from nothing to twelve cents per pound; on eggs from nothing to eight cents per dozen; on meats his protection is from nothing to the full amount of the law. No one can say just how much benefit the farmer or anyone else derives from the tariff on his products, for the benefit rises and falls under the law of supply and demand, and this is just as true with manufactured commodities as with farm products. I recently bought a mowing machine for 20 per cent under standard price because the dealer was over-stocked. You can go into any city and in some store buy standard articles decidedly under the regular prices. The reason the farmer does not always get his tariff is because some articles he produces in greater quantities than this country can consume. But when he fails to get his tariff he is not injured because the things he buys most of are on the free list.

The charge is made that by means of the tariff combinations are enabled to fix the price of their products so high that the farmer is greatly injured. Again there is no truth in this, for those commodities which bear fixed prices as a rule are on the free

list. The price of gasoline is fixed, but there is no tariff on gasoline or products of petroleum. The price of agricultural implements is fixed and they are all on the free list. The price of lumber is fixed, but it is a free product. The price of shoes is fixed, but they are all free. So it must be admitted that there is no relation between tariff and price fixing. Prices are fixed under other laws, principally the patent laws.

Most of the bills presented to Congress for the relief of the farmer provide some kind of an export corporation to take up and export such surplus crop as we produce so that the tariff might be effective on that which remains. Just at present corn is the crop to be exported. To whom would you export it? The foreign market for corn is extremely limited and American grades of corn do not meet favor in Europe. If we exported 500 million bushels of corn, and that is the proposal, we would demoralize the European market, bankrupt producers in the Argentine and place the foreigner, who would secure our corn at a price far below that prevailing in America, in a position where he could fatten live stock at less cost than would be possible in this country, thus destroying our foreign market for pork, lard, and beef. We should likewise injure the cotton raiser of our South, for his European market for cottonseed cake would be injured by this cheap corn.

We must not forget that Europe is about as well fed as we are, that she is buying about all she can pay for. If we force her to buy more, we must loan her money to buy without hope of ever getting it back. If we are not to get the money for these exported crops, then the government might as well buy them in the first place, and dump them in the Atlantic Ocean. A law to this effect would be sounder than those proposed. Britain is willing to buy more wheat, provided we will take pay for it in wool, beef and mutton from Australia, butter and lamb from New Zealand, and other agricultural crops from Canada.



Denmark and Holland would take some of our corn if they could pay for it in butter, cheese and dairy products. China would like a little wheat if we will take eggs, pork, and hides in pay. France could use a few of our products but she wants to pay in wine and champagne and promises to pay. Italy would take a little provided she could trade lemons, olives and olive oil. All the products these countries want to send us are materials produced in this country and any further imports would hurt our producers of those commodities.

But the great drawback to all of these price-raising laws is the pressing danger of over-production. We all know that an increase in price means an increase in production. With a guarantee of \$1.50 per bushel for wheat, we would double production—with no market in the world for the surplus. Under the stimulus of high war prices in one year we produced over one billion bushels of wheat, and this with a scarcity of labor. With high-priced corn in 1924 the farmers over produced corn in 1925 by 500 million bushels. Every crop that was high in 1925 will probably be low in 1926 because of over production. It is idle to talk about exporting our surplus, for the world is already well supplied, and under profitable prices our surplus would be so tremendous as in many cases to disorganize foreign countries.

I wonder how long foreign countries would stand organized dumping of surplus crops within their borders. For instance Canada may produce 300 million bushels of wheat more than she can use. Suppose she did what we propose to do and dumped all this wheat into the United States, demoralizing our wheat growers. How long would we stand it? The Farm Bureau would have a delegation on the way to Washington within ten minutes. Foreign countries all have their own farmers to protect and will not long allow us to dump surplus crops on top of them. Most foreign countries already have anti-dumping laws, but some of them do not now apply to food stuffs.

If farmers would quit thinking about

increasing production and stop worrying about a starving world, they would be better off. It is more than probable that the population of the United States will never double. This is true, if the present rate in the increase of population continues. The land we have under cultivation now would feed the world if it were profitable to handle it properly. Let us quit adding new lands to our farm area until we can

at least find a market for that which we already raise. Put the cut-over lands back into forests and the deserts to grazing. Repeal the homestead laws and stop all extension of national irrigation. Do a few sensible, sound things to help the farmer instead of leading him deeper into the mire through these laws that will increase production. S. W. McClure.

Bliss, Idaho.

## Sheep Affairs in Australia and New Zealand

By A. C. Mills.

Melbourne, February 16, 1926.

Although Australian wool values have not fluctuated violently since last writing, a tendency to falter was noticeable on more than one occasion, and competition at auctions sometimes a little uncertain. As a result quotable prices at the end of the first February series had dropped back five per cent on the average, as compared with those ruling in mid-January. Fortunately the second February series, which opened in Melbourne yesterday, witnessed a more confident tone. The demand all round was firmer and values recovered most, if not all, the ground lost during the previous month. American buying was quite a factor yesterday and today, operators bidding freely for suitable lines, after having been on the quiet side for two or three weeks. With London firmer, it is hoped the position may be maintained and consolidated.

Undoubtedly the most attractive catalogues have recently been offered in Sydney, where very stylish fine wool clips from the New England and Southern Highlands have come under the hammer. These sold at up to 78 cents per pound for the top lot, and a number of others were not far behind. On the other hand, the best price obtained at Geelong, the home of records, was 70½ cents per pound for a western district of Victoria line.

According to a return by the National Council of Wool-selling Brokers, the average price per pound realized for all greasy wool sold in Sydney during January was 32 cents. With the

better wools offered in Sydney the last fortnight, it is probable the February average will be higher.

The arrivals of samples of so-called artificial wool have roused wide interest throughout Australia, and, incidentally, given rise to some pretty widely divergent opinions on the subject. There is the pessimist among growers, usually found among those whose clip is not of much account, who sees in artificial wool a rival to the real thing. Some go so far as to place the blame of the lower levels lately obtaining to its advent, and it is quite possible the extensive advertising it has received may have had something to do with the drop in values since November. Others, with a more cheerful outlook, and I think they are greatly in the majority, profess to have no fear that any artificial fibre will affect the market for their staple. They point to the analogy of artificial and real silk. It must be confessed that the synthetic specimens that have come to hand resemble natural wool less than wood pulp silk does that which is spun by a worm. Also it is authoritatively stated by the local representative of Snia-Viscosa, Italy, where "sniafil" comes from, that the product is not intended to be a substitute for wool, but rather as a blender.

From time to time I have referred to efforts being made to overcome the jute fibre in wool evil, due to the universal use of jute wool packs. Wool manufacturers, particularly in Bradford, have taken the matter up strenuously, and one of their suggested pal-

liatives is the substitution of all wool for jute packs. After a number of experiments they produced what was hoped would be an ideal container, and forwarded samples to Australia to be tried out under ordinary working conditions. The results of these tests are beginning to come through, and it is fairly evident the pack is not going to meet with the full approval of the trade at this end, as wool is more elastic than jute, it has been found the packs stretch appreciably in handling. As a result they lose their shape in transit from shearing shed to wool store, which makes packing in the latter difficult and wasteful of space. Then, in the dumping for shipment, they further lose shape and must occupy more space in the hold of the ships. That may call for a higher freight from the ship owners. It has also been found that the wool material is much more difficult to sew effectively, and will not stand the same rough usage as tough jute.

The weather continues dry over the bulk of the sheep districts of the Commonwealth. A considerable part of the country has received no rain worth mentioning since November, and a wide area in the center of the continent, not for over a year. There is still a moderate supply of feed in Victoria and the south of New South Wales, South Australia and Queensland, but water for stock and domestic purposes is getting alarmingly low on properties that are dependent on surface supplies. The bush fires, of which so much has been written, are in the forest and hill country, where little grazing is done. Losses of stock from this cause have been small.

Such firmness as does exist in the live stock markets is due to the buying of exporters, though their operations are somewhat circumscribed by steadily falling oversea markets for frozen meat. Last week good crossbred or comeback wethers, carrying three to four months' wool, and such as are used in the middle class butchering trade, were fetching \$5.25 to \$6; aged ewes about \$3.60; and the best light unshorn lambs \$4.80 to \$5.50 per head

in the Sydney and Melbourne sale yards. Packers are taking about 25,000 head out of the markets, of which fully 70 per cent are lambs. For these they are paying on the basis of about 12½ cents per pound, bare meat, up to 8 cents for wethers, and a little under 6 cents for the ewes.

Following on a wet winter and unsettled spring, many districts of New Zealand are having a dry summer. The resultant shortage of grass and partial failure of the rape and turnip crops are affecting the supply of fats, especially of lambs, for the export trade. Tens of thousands of lambs in the North Island, bred for the freezers, will not be fit to ship, and have to be held over until next season. Conditions are better in the South Island, but in few districts can they be described as ideal. At the beginning of February packers were paying from 17 cents to 19 cents for prime light-weight woolly lambs, and from 11 cents to 12½ cents a pound dressed weights for the best wethers under 56 pounds in the North Island. The buying rate in the South Island ranged from 19 cents to 19½ cents for light lambs.

The wool market in New Zealand, taking into account the difference in quality, closely follows that of Australia. Public auctions have been held at most centers since the new year, and the following report of the Dunedin sale, on January 30th, may be taken as typical of the position generally: "Bidding, except occasionally, not so keen as at the December sale. Super, half-breds, and three-quarter-breds and crossbreds suitable for America from one cent to two cents per pound dearer than in December, but medium and low half-breeds are from par to two cents per pound lower. Merinos, most erratic, super sorts being very neglected and selling from 4 cents to 6 cents per pound below December rates. Merinos sold at up to 40½ cents, fine half-breds to 44 cents, medium half-breds 41 cents, coarse to 30½ cents, Corriedale to 44½ cents, fine crossbred to 34 cents, medium crossbred to 31 cents, coarse crossbreds to 24 cents per pound."

## LETTER FROM A SHEPHERD TO HIS PAL.

Morocco, Africa.

March 1926.

Dear Ern:

Did you ever step on a lion's tail? Or have a mob of white-robed Arabs ride into you with guns and daggers, thirsting to lave the parched premises with your precious blood? Only in your dreams, Ern, only in your dreams, when you lay flat on your back, full of roast lamb and sourdough biscuits and the wagon rocked a bit heavy in the desert storm. But me—Listen! You won't believe!

Sarah—say, I'll take my hat off to that maiden any old time or place—and me, we'd got the password that night—they'd made it a compliment and it was "Sarah" all down the outpost line—we saw the last Spanish soldier snap to attention and then wave us good luck as we rode out into the friendless dark. We rode quiet, me in the lead and Sarah bringing up the pack. We'd figured it best for me to have my hands free in case I had to use the hardware.

All night we rides up a ravine, circles one of Hassan's camps, and when it comes daybreak we're up on a big mesa right under the Atlas peaks. We'd come twenty-five miles. I'm just looking around for a place for us to hide for the day when we hears a noise and there, not more'n half a mile away, rides about a hundred or more of Hassan's men. They sees us simultaneous, gives a whoop of joy and here they comes, hell bent for breakfast, straight at us. There's a grove of trees close by. I whips out my automatic and throws about seven slugs into their ranks and we heads for the shelter of them trees.

There we was. We ain't got a ghost of a show. I looks at Sarah, and she's a little white around the gills, but believe me, she sits her hoss as straight as ever you please. She pulls her pearl-handled and it makes me smile, but Ern, my hilarity is plumb previous.

We hurries and backs our hosses into a dense thicket of brush; I slips out my carbine and steps towards a opening where I can see.

Then, all of a sudden, the whole world busts loose in a roar like you never heard in all your baby days. I feel something squirm under my feet, like a big rattler I thinks, and I devoutly hope I'm standing on his neck. But I don't have time to look. Behind me a gun pops and pops again. That's Sarah's pearlhandled. And here they come, the whole smear trying to ride in at once—a mob of black faces all lit up with a paleolithic glow and craving to meet my little pal. The thing under my feet quivers and lies still and I starts working my carbine. I sees red, Ern, real red, and I musses up a lot of them white robes and makes 'em into angel shrouds. I piles 'em up and checks the stampede. We ain't near so easy like we looks. At that their enthusiasm sort of moderates and they mill around a bit, everybody willing to let the other guy come on in and cast his reflections at me. I keep on shooting. When my gun clicks on a empty chamber I feel something touch my elbow and Sarah shoves me my automatic all loaded and cocked. She takes the carbine and I goes on with the show. They withdraws and I puts four of 'em afoot, and plugs one guy thru the pantry when he raises his rifle for a good clean crack at my domineering personality. Then Sarah shoves me the carbine and I stands at ease.

In the rush of things Sarah gets her langwiches mixed up and she says to me, "Bravo, mon ami! Continuez, continuez!"

That's French and means, "Hit 'em up kid, you're doing fine!"

We has a breathing spell, but not for long. I knows it won't last long. They don't want to kill Sarah, but they is plumb venomous in their ambition to separate me from my immaculate immortality.

At that paradoxical moment we hears a sweet, sweet sound. It's the heavy drone of a bombing plane headed our way. They'd tuned up a big boy down at the camp and come out to

have a look see how far we'd got. In a few minutes it's overhead. I sees the Count wave at us and with that the big boy soars up high and driving straight over that mob spills a black object. Next there's a explosion as rocks the earth. A cloud of dust, rocks and debris goes up two stories high, and when that cloud busts it commences to rain bandits. It's the best one act show I ever see pulled off. By gosh, when the echoes dies away and the dust settles down where them bandits was gathered there's nothing but a melancholy hole all splattered with messy fragments of human appurtenance. And them that escaped I guess loses faith in their medicine, and you'd ortu've seen 'em go. I could plug a few more, but I don't. When I git enough I got plenty. Even if they did try to pull off a hundred to one massacre.

The plane circles overhead and dips us a salute; I jumps out into the open, stand at attention and bows to Sarah, all the same as a actor on the stage. They are making a hundred miles, but the Count stands up in the cockpit and raises his hand to his cap. And they're gone.

Then comes my real surprise. So far everything'd been kinda orderly, like you'd natcherally expect. But that awful roar? Now I see what it was. All thru that fracas I'd stood on a lion's tail. It seems like Leo was taking a snooze. He could a clawed me pronto, but first he yowls for all Africa to witness that he slays for just cause. And when he opens his trap the second time Sarah horns in on him with her pearlhandled. Right in the eye, Ern. He died on the spot.

He looks sort of puffed up, so I splits him open to see what made him so big. His circumference was soon explained. He had a enlisted Spanish soldier inside as I remember was booked down at camp for being absent without leave.

There's more, Ern, but I got to close, Sarah's getting a bite to eat and she's lost the can opener. So long.

Your Friend and Pal,

Richard A. Wormwood.

## NEW MEXICO ASSOCIATION MEETS

The New Mexico Wool Growers Association held its annual convention at Albuquerque on March 17, 1926. There was an exceptionally good attendance, the meetings were interesting, and the general tone of the convention was optimistic, which was due in part to the recent copious rains.

The general provisions of the Stanfield bill (S. 2584) received the approval of the wool growers, but it was also held to be the consensus of opinion of those assembled "that any measure for control of grazing on the unreserved public domain, in order to benefit the industry, must provide for the leasing of the land on an area basis except in cases where such leases may prove to be impracticable, and that only taxpayers and citizens should be qualified to vote on the formation of a grazing district."

An important action of the meeting was the adoption of a resolution that called upon the president of the association to appoint a committee of three to make preparations for the formation of a loan company, so that the credit facilities of the Federal Intermediate Credit banks would be available to the stockmen of New Mexico.

National truth-in-fabric legislation and the work of the Biological Survey received the endorsement of the association.

Mr. David Farr of Magdalena was elected president to succeed Mr. Prager Miller, and Mr. Floyd W. Lee of Albuquerque was made vice-president, with Miss Bertha Benson continuing in the position of secretary-treasurer.

We had a fine winter here and our sheep came out all o. k. Our range is in better condition than for some time.

I have started in the sheep business for myself and have a hundred head of Rambouillets. We have a big open country here with very few people. The climate is good and the range is fine with plenty of water.

E. J. Campbell.

Wardlaw, Alta, Canada.



## The Wool Sack

### THE BOSTON WOOL MARKET

By Henry A. Kidder

Though there has been no lack of interesting features, March did not bring the improvement in the marketing of either the raw material or the finished goods. In fact, the attained results have been so far from what was confidently expected and hoped for, that many wool men are looking forward to May as the time when better times are to be looked for in the wool textile industry. It does not take a very long memory to recall that this setting forward the date for the coming of a better market has been periodically repeated for many months.

It is suggested by some of the wiser wool men that it is a mistake to expect the active business and the large profits that attended and followed the period of the World War. What then is to be expected? It seems to be settled that the goods trade has reached a point where there can only be moderate buying and a slow development of the seasons as they run. Evidence of this is at least partially found in the statements being made by one and another of the mill managers that instead of the present heavy-weight season developing with a whoop, they are still finding their best outlet to be in belated orders for the light-weight season, which was supposed to be ended some time since. One active manufacturer is credited with saying that his plant is still busy making light-weight goods that are to be cut for this spring and summer trade.

Naturally, he and others like him, are giving more attention to supplying this belated and unexpected demand than they are to forcing their heavy-weight goods upon reluctant and unready buyers. It is further noted that this delay in the development of the demand for heavy-weights has given manufacturers an advantage in making their season's wool purchases. With goods buyers operating very conservatively, the advisability of carrying

out the same policy in covering in the wool market can be readily seen and understood.

The net result of these conditions has been to force a continuation of the quiet tone that has been uniformly noted in the wool market since the first of the year. Trading throughout the month has been "spotty" and uneven. Considerable wool has been moved. There is no doubt on that point; but where sales are the largest is heard the most complaint regarding the low prices realized or the losses suffered. There has been continued liquidation all along the line, and even now it can hardly be said that the wool business is again on a profitable basis, especially when the heavy overhead is considered.

Until very recently the Boston wool trade has held the situation well in hand, and has steadily and consistently refused to contract the new clip Territory wools at any figure that the growers would be likely to accept. Since the middle of March, however, there has been a change in this conservative attitude, and now a moderate business in contracting seems to have been inaugurated. Contracting was started by St. Louis and Chicago houses, though their takings to date have not been excessive. For a time Boston refused to follow, and it looked as if the western houses were going to have the field to themselves. It was reported that they drew back as soon as they found Summer Street was refusing to play.

It was hardly to be expected that Boston would stand idly by for an indefinite period and allow their western competitors to pick up the best clips at their own prices. Consequently, when the latter developed another buying streak, it appears to have been more than Summer Street could stand. Witness the sudden blossoming of contracting by various wool houses and in widely different sections. Yet it is very easy to over-estimate the importance of what is being done. As this is written it is estimated that the total

contracts to date do not call for more than 3,000,000 pounds of wool, though as the movement is still in progress, the volume may possibly be swelled mightily in the near future.

Contracting to date has been done in Wyoming, mainly around Casper and Rawlins, but a little in the vicinity of Rock Springs; in the Red Bluff country in California; around Vernal, Utah, and at various sections in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Montana. In the last-named state, very little has been done to date, though it is reported that buyers are willing to pay 35 cents for good clips. Growers there are said to be asking 40 cents, and there the matter stands at the moment. Elsewhere in the Territory wool sections, the going prices appear to have been around 32 to 33 cents, with an occasional choice clip reaching as high as 35 cents, and in some cases less desirable clips have sold at 30 to 32 cents. Just as this is written, word comes from Texas that a Boston house has contracted between 200,000 and 300,000 pounds in that state at 40 cents.

From the above it will be seen that having waited until the end of March for any major operations to get under way, there is now a very tidy business in progress. The question that is being raised in Summer Street relates principally to the attitude that manufacturers are likely to assume towards this contracting movement. They have been urging conservative action, notwithstanding the fact that an occasional mill buyer has gone into the western field and paid prices above the parity of the Boston market.

Territory wool prices appear to have been fairly well established for the moment in such Summer Street houses as have any wool to sell. Principal operations during March were in wools consigned to Summer Street houses, or in the holdings of several of the leading western pools. It has been a difficult matter to get at the truth of what has been done, but there is no question that prices have been sagging steadily for several weeks. While

in most cases prices are purely nominal, enough has been done to give an idea of real wool values.

Grease prices are not always conclusive in regard to values, as only by comparison and by skillful estimates of shrinkage can the actual cost to the mill of a given lot of wool be determined. Old wools are now well cleared in this market, but the new Arizona wools are available, and some of the early shorn wools in other sections are also being dealt in. Current quotations on the clean basis are about \$1.15 to \$1.18 for fine and fine medium staple Territory; \$1.05 to \$1.10 for half-blood staple; 90 to 95 cents for three-eighths-blood staple, 80 to 85 cents for quarter-blood staple; \$1.08 to \$1.12 for good French combing and \$1 to \$1.05 for fine and fine medium clothing.

Spring Texas wools of last year's clip are scarce, though a small lot of twelve-months' wool is reported to have changed hands on the clean basis of \$1.15. Spring wools are hardly quotable, though nominally worth \$1.05 or a little better. Choice fall wools are quotable at \$1 to \$1.05, with sales. There is still considerable fall wool left in Texas, with buyers showing little interest and growers hoping for better prices than are being offered.

The position of Ohio and similar fleece wools is relatively less well-established than Territories. There is reported to be still considerable old wool in the country, both in the hands of growers and second-hand operators. Some of the latter lots were bought on the top of the wave last year, and there never has been a time when the owners could have got out whole. In this market, fine delaines are quotable at 47 to 48 cents, compared with 50 to 52 cents a month ago. A recent transfer of this grade was made at 46 cents, said to be for a very good lot of wool.

Handlers of fleeces say that new delaine clips must be bought on the basis of 43 to 44 cents, certainly not over 45 cents to be a safe proposition. This means that the season in Ohio must start at 35 cents or less. Other Ohio grades have shown even more weakness in this market of late than de-

laines. Half-blood and three-eighths blood combing wools can not be quoted at over 46 to 47 cents, though few sales are noted at any figure. For quarter-blood combing the going figure is 45 to 46 cents, with recent sales at both figures. Fine clothing Ohio is nominal at 41 to 43 cents, the grade being scarce and buyers showing little interest.

The woolen mills have been running slack during the past month, and consequently their buyers have been showing only occasional flashes of buying interest in pulled and scoured wools, such as are ordinarily termed woolen wools. As a result even the best super wools have been showing unexpected weakness, and prices have been declining, in some cases quite materially. Choice fine wools have shown most strength, but even choice AA wools are 5 cents the scoured pound lower than on March 1, at \$1.20 to \$1.22 clean.

Other super wools are quoted on the clean basis of \$1.10 for fine A super, 87 to 90 cents for choice B super, 80 to 82 cents for ordinary B super and 65 to 70 cents for C super. On the other hand, combing pulled wools are actually higher than a month ago for fine and medium grades, with coarse combing lots holding their own. Fine combing is quotable at \$1.10 to \$1.15, medium combing at 95 cents to \$1 and coarse combing at 80 to 85 cents. At these figures manufacturers have been showing some interest in combing wools. Super wools appear to have been called for only to cover sales of goods.

The foreign situation has changed somewhat during the past month. While prices of spot foreign wools in this market are no higher, and in some cases actually lower, London and the Colonies have been showing unexpected strength. This was especially true of the second series of the London wool sales, which opened March 9 and closed March 25. Opening prices were on about the level of the closing of the previous series, and this position was substantially maintained during the whole of the series. Therefore this

can not be used further to depress prices on domestic wools here, though fine Merinos are still strong competitors with the best fine wools of domestic growth.

Similar strength, passive it may be, but none the less real, has been developed in Australia and New Zealand. The New Zealand auctions closed definitely on March 27 with the sale at Wellington, after what must be considered a very successful season. Americans bought suitable wools quite freely. Much of this buying was for account of a Massachusetts mill it is said, and it is also reported that the same party was the principal buyer at the London sales, where American purchases were reported to have been 4500 bales, mostly New Zealand 46s.

The season at Melbourne and Geelong will be practically over by April 15, which will mark the end of the offerings considered particularly suitable for America. Buyers from this country, however, are reported to have been buying this season in Sydney and Brisbane with unusual freedom, and to a somewhat less extent in Adelaide. Good useful combing and topmaking wools can be laid down from thence at what seem to be very low prices, when compared with domestic values. Western wool growers may well congratulate themselves on the fact that Australian markets report a decided check upon the previous downward trend in Merino wools.

There has been latterly a liberal movement in fine Capes, several thousand bales having been taken over by a leading mill interest on the clean basis of 95 cents for ten to twelve-months' wool and \$1 clean for twelve-months', all being 64s to 70s Merinos. That Boston prices are still very low for certain grades is shown by the fact that there has been recently a substantial movement into export of certain grades, which are selling for more money abroad than in Boston. These wools included Argentine greasy and scoured wools, Cape greasy wool and a little New Zealand, and all went to the Continent.

Altogether it must be said that the situation abroad is a bit stronger than it was a month ago, and this can not fail to be reflected shortly in the Boston market, though there is still considerable wool to be liquidated here, on which the owner must take a loss. Capital and surplus may have shrunk a little in the operations of the past year, but recent happenings show that Summer Street is still on the job, and will buy wool in any market where there is a reasonable promise of a profitable turnover.

### WESTERN WOOL SALES

The contracting of wool which began in March in range states is still quite active in mid-April. The St. Louis and Chicago concerns which were the heaviest buyers at the outset, are still operating, and a number of Boston houses have entered the field.

The first large transaction reported was the contract for the Taylor clip in Nevada, the price being given at 27½ cents, with no discounts or interest on the advance. Nevada clips later went as high as 34 cents, under quite active competition among buyers.

Idaho fed lambs wool, already shorn, was taken at 34 cents, and the same kind shorn at Stockdale, Illinois, was later sold there at 36½ cents. Considerable quantities have been contracted in Utah at from 32 to 35 cents.

During the week of April 5, 142,000 fleeces were reported as being placed under contract in the vicinity of Rock Springs, Wyoming, at 35 cents.

No contracting has been reported from Montana. Growers in that state are apparently holding for 40 cents, and a large number are expecting to consign in any event.

The above reports of sales as coming to the Wool Grower contain no information as to the grade or shrinkage of the clips sold. In most instances it is probable that the wool is no heavier than the average, but in Wyoming and Colorado, and parts of some other states in which snow fall was heavy, the shrinkage should be less than usual.

### NEARLY THREE MILLION MEMBERS IN AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES

Membership in agricultural cooperative organizations had nearly reached the three million mark at the end of 1925. Two-thirds of the twelve thousand associations in the United States reported their enrollments to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, and their total was 2,386,061. The number of members in the cooperatives that did not report will, of course, increase that figure. Part of the statement issued on March 15 by the Department of Agriculture covering the data furnished by the cooperatives follows:

Farmers' cooperative business associations numbering 8,256 had reported to the United States Department of Agriculture, at the close of 1925, a total membership of 2,386,061. This membership was distributed among the several commodity groups approximately as follows: Associations marketing grain, 490,000; dairy products, 374,000; live stock, 330,000; cotton, 300,000; tobacco, 300,000; fruits and vegetables, 125,000; wool, 47,000; poultry and poultry products, 31,000; nuts, 19,000; forage crops, 3,000; associations engaged in retailing activities, 100,000; miscellaneous selling, 135,000; miscellaneous buying, 125,000.

The average number of members for the 8,256 organizations reporting was 289 compared with 122, the average number for 5,242 associations in 1915. The increase in the average membership is largely due to the development during the past few years of the large-scale centralized type of organization.

The 2,386,000 members are distributed through the nine groups of states approximately as follows: West North Central States, 700,000; East North Central, 500,000; East South Central, 290,000; South Atlantic, 230,000; Middle Atlantic, 150,000; Pacific, 105,000; New England, 68,000; Mountain, 67,000.

Kentucky associations reported a larger total membership than the organizations of any other state. However, many of the members of the two large, centralized, tobacco-marketing associations having headquarters in Kentucky are residents of neighboring states. The leading states, from a membership standpoint, and the number of members credited to the associations reporting from each are: Kentucky, 194,979; Iowa, 157,885; Missouri, 155,060; North Carolina, 138,694; Minnesota, 127,418; Illinois, 119,803; Ohio, 109,953; Michigan, 100,849; Wisconsin, 98,394; New York, 93,380; Kansas, 78,930; Indiana, 73,647; Nebraska, 69,068; California, 67,031.

As there are approximately 12,000 active farmers' cooperative associations in the United States, the total membership for these is undoubtedly much larger than for the 8,256 associations which have reported. A conservative estimate of the total membership as of January 1, 1926, is 8,700,000. The number of farmers participating in cooperative enterprises is less than the number of members, as some farmers belong to more

than one organization. The above figures do not include the membership of central-market sales agencies.

### UTAH WOOL MARKETING ASSOCIATION FORMED

A cooperative marketing association was organized at Salt Lake City, March 29, 1926, by the Utah Wool Growers Association, with H. W. Harvey of Heber City as president, and J. B. White of Paradise, vice-president. These men, with J. R. Allen of Draper, L. N. Marsden of Parowan and Abraham Hansen of Richfield, make up the directorate of five that will conduct the affairs of the new body. Mr. J. A. Hooper, secretary of the state wool growers' association, will serve in that capacity for the marketing organization.

The Utah Wool Marketing Association is similar in form to associations that are now operating in Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Arizona and South Dakota, and will be able to avail itself of the loaning facilities of the Intermediate Credit Bank of Spokane. Mr. W. E. Meyer, assistant manager of that institution, met with the board of directors on April 7, after which it was announced that advances of from 17 to 20 cents, at six per cent interest, would be made to members of the cooperative.

Wool growers who market through the organization will incur no liability. When their wool is turned to the association, they receive the advance as part payment, and when final sale is made they receive the rest of the money less actual handling and interest charges. According to the present plan, the marketing association will store the wool of its members in Boston, where an agency already established will handle the selling. If growers wish, however, to have their product stored in Salt Lake City or at Pacific Coast points, it will be so stored.

An active campaign for membership is now under way.



### IDAHO ASSOCIATION PLANS WOOL CONSIGNMENT

The Idaho Wool Marketing Association, which was organized last year by the Idaho Wool Growers Association, held a meeting at Pocatello on April 3, to consider marketing of the 1926 clip. James Farmer, vice-president of the marketing association, and W. E. Meyers of the Federal Intermediate Credit Bank of Spokane, discussed the situation and the methods of securing loans on wools to be handled by the association. Arrangements were begun last year to secure necessary financing from the Intermediate Credit Bank, which has simplified its procedure and requirements to be readily adaptable to the needs of marketing organizations without delay in making the loans needed.

Secretary McLean explained that an additional object of the meeting was to give to the growers the facts of the situation as affecting marketing of the 1926 clip, and the consideration by the individual growers and organizations of the price prospects and policies to be observed in this year's selling. Idaho has a number of local and county wool pooling and selling organizations. For the most part these effect sales at or before shearing time, but if desired the state marketing organization can receive such separate pools to finance them and direct the selling.

No announcement was made as to what selling agency would be employed to sell wools received this year by the marketing association. Representatives of the National Wool Exchange of Boston and the Western Wool Warehouse of Portland were called on for talks.

Under the leadership of President Bacon, Secretary McLean, Mr. Farmer, and other active officers and members in the Idaho Association, the marketing of that state's wool is rapidly being placed upon a sound and modern basis to secure the benefits of conservative financing and orderly selling.

### OMAHA COMMISSION CHARGES

An increase in rates for selling cattle and hogs is being sought by livestock commission firms operating at the Omaha Stock Yards. Request for authority to raise the cattle and hog selling rates was requested from the Packers and Stock Yards Administration at Washington. Public hearings on the matter were opened on March 24, and continued two weeks.

A large amount of evidence was offered by representatives of the commission houses in justification of the proposed increases. Representatives of organizations of livestock raisers and shippers offered objection to the new rates. In the course of the hearings Mr. T. W. Tomlinson, secretary of the American National Live Stock Association, raised a question as to the need of the work of the livestock exchanges as conducted at the various markets by commission houses. Mr. Tomlinson suggested that the necessary control and supervision of the individual selling concerns could be accomplished by the government through the Packers and Stock Yards Administration which exercises wide powers under the Act by which it was created in 1921.

No increase has been asked in the rates charged for selling sheep. The decision of the government officials in respect to the higher rates is expected to be rendered within a few weeks.

### THE SENATE FABRIC BILL

Senate Bill 1618, described in the March Wool Grower, was recently reported favorably by the Committee on Interstate Commerce. It is now upon the Senate Calendar though no announcement has been made as to the probable time of its being voted upon. This bill, introduced by Senator Capper of Kansas, is quite different from the mis-branding bill now upon the calendar of the other branch of Congress. It seems unlikely that any compromise can be effected as between the provisions of the two bills. The result will depend upon which branch of Congress will first pass or reject

the bill before it and in case of passage of either of the bills, upon its reception in the committee of the other body.

### STILLWATER WOOL GROWERS HOLD SUCCESSFUL MEETING

Over 125 wool growers attended the business and educational session of the meeting of the Stillwater Wool Growers Association at Columbus, Montana, on March 13, and the attendance at the banquet in the evening was above 220.

The Stillwater Association is next to the largest wool pooling association in Montana. It has over 250 members and their pool consists of over 95,000 fleeces, or a strong 800,000 pounds of fine long staple wool. The sheep in Stillwater County are nearly all high grade Rambouillets. The association was organized in 1921, and their first pool consisted of 250,000 pounds, making their growth in five years more than three times. The Stillwater Association has all but three sheep raisers in the county in its pool.

The afternoon business was held in the down town theatre. Vice-President K. O. Haugen called the meeting to order and conducted the election of officers in a very efficient manner. The officers elected were as follows: President, K. O. Haugen; Vice-President, William Kirkland; Secretary-Treasurer, John Logan; directors, W. L. Sylvester, H. J. Witt, Carl Bue, Nels Hellereen, Helmert Arthur; sales committee, J. W. Weir, K. O. Haugen, George Hunt, Wm. Witt, John Logan.

After the business program Murray E. Stebbins, secretary of the Montana Wool Growers Association, discussed the advantages of a state association and how it can serve wool growers. He also gave suggestions on how the Stillwater Association could conduct a pure bred ram sale, and make some cost production studies.

Mr. Stebbins was followed by Mr. R. L. Waddell, state live stock specialist, who gave a very interesting talk on culling, and length of fleece compared with weight and value of fleece.

M. E. Stebbins.

## Conditions at the Lamb Markets

### CHICAGO

Big lambs have acted better since the mid-February debacle. For one reason sheep of all kinds have been scarce; also yearlings. This enabled the heavy lambs to do substitute duty, creating an eastern outlet and with it a little competition which is always beneficial to the selling side of a market. Not to exceed 5 per cent of the winter run of live muttons at Chicago has been sheep and yearlings combined. The aged wether has all but disappeared and with the corn belt tucking every ewe capable of raising a lamb away in its little crib at night, killers were deprived of that heretofore dependable winter supply of mutton, forcing them to press the heavy lamb into service. Nevertheless it has not been a satisfactory market to the feeder, who had more overweight lambs than anything else. The major portion of the March run came from Colorado and western Nebraska feed lots and carried excessive weight, 88 to 98-pound lambs being in a conspicuous majority. There was also a formidable showing of 100 to 115-pound lambs which were "razzed" in the daily dicker over prices, selling in load lots around \$12, while popular weights were worth \$14 to \$14.25.

March supply was heavy all around the western market circle which garnered slightly in excess of a million head, against 875,000 last year. Following February demoralization, March trade made a false start. The type of lambs that were considered well sold on the February low spot at \$13 reacted to \$15.25, but the good thing did not last, and the market finally got into \$12.75@13.50 on the rank and file of woolled lambs weighing 88 to 98 pounds, a small light end going to shippers at \$14@14.25, although at the end of March the \$14 quotation was erased. Lambs weighing 100 to 115 pounds sold at \$12@12.25. Fortunately a reasonably stable trading condition was maintained, the market avoiding the periodical de-

moralization that marked the course of February events. About half of the Colorado distribution reaching Chicago came to packers direct from Denver, but the run from that quarter was better distributed than usual which contributed to stability. Toward the end of the month the Colorado offerings declined in weight, which indicated that by dint of persistent "topping" feeders had worked off the surplus of overweight stock.

The shorn lamb deal was aggravatingly dull and each week this class of stock was more heavily penalized until an unseasonably wide spread between woolled and shorn stock was established. Slats were worth little and pulling the short growth of wool on a shorn lamb involved as much expense as handling the full fleece.

This, in brief, is the story of the March market. Its chief features were paucity of light lambs and a constant effort to evade weight, which is attributable to the growing dominance of the chain store as a meat distributing agency. At such points as New York, Philadelphia, Boston, and Baltimore, the chain store is firmly established in putting the individual meat vendor out of business, and such stores demand legs weighing eight pounds or less. Not only is the consumer becoming more exacting, but retailing is becoming specialized. Heavy lambs, 45@55 pounds, had to beg bids at 18@20 cents in the carcass right along, while the 34 to 40-pound kind was worth 25 cents or better. Feeders, realizing unpopularity of heavy fat lambs, undertook to cut the finishing period short, whereupon killers protested against low dressing percentages. Many 95-pound lambs went to the butcher deficient in condition. What the public wants is a light, finished lamb.

Consumption was stimulated by a lower set of wholesale prices, prompting retailers to headline the product and push it on customers as they had sufficient margin for incentive to selling effort. At Chicago choice light

and handy-weight lambs, 30 to 42 pounds, sold at 24@27 cents; seconds at 22@24 cents. The spread on all weights, 42@55 pounds, was 21@23 cents; common grades selling at 19@21 cents. At Atlantic seaboard markets it was a 23@25-cent market for choice 30@42-pound carcasses; 21@22 cents for seconds of the same weight. Heavy carcasses, 42@55 pounds, sold at 20@24 cents; seconds 18@19 cents. Dressed mutton was on an 11@16-cents per pound basis from common to choice.

At intervals the eastern dressed market wrestled with an accumulation, necessitating putting the surplus in the freezer, but the quantity thus handled was inconsiderable. Some heavy carcasses sold as low as 17 cents. At New York the bulk of lamb carcasses sold during the month at 21@22 cents.

The first shipments of California dressed lambs of the season reached New York during the week of March 19, but did not receive a cordial reception from the trade owing to plentitude and relative cheapness of winter-fed product. During the week of March 26 with 24 cents an out-on-the-limb figure for winter-fed carcasses, killers balked at paying 30@33 cents for spring lambs. At Chicago that week a car of California springers was offered at 32@34 cents, but did not get action, which indicates that demand for spring lamb on Easter account has waned. Spasmodic efforts were made during the month to advance dressed prices one to two cents per pound, but killers could not make it stick.

Feeder and breeder trade has been restricted by limited supply. Shearers paid \$13.50@13.75 for 72@78-pound heavy-fleeced lambs. Fleshy 92-pounders went to the country at \$12.50, odd lots of common lambs being taken out for the same purpose down to \$11.50. Colorado ewe lambs went to the corn belt for breeding purposes at \$14, averaging 88 to 90 pounds. There were waiting orders for 65-pound lambs at

all times, but most of the stuff available for shearing purposes averaged 70 pounds, or better, those of light weight lacking quality. The country took some aged ewes at \$8.50@9. Two doubles of 93-pound blackface ewe lambs went to New York State at \$13.60 and three doubles averaging 88 pounds at \$13.65. One load of choice Colorado ewe lambs, 88 to 90 pounds, reached \$14.

J. E. Poole.

### OMAHA

Lamb prices continued under heavy pressure during March and recessions in most cases were of rather large proportions. Supplies as a whole were not of what might be called burdensome volume, but with surrounding influences of a bearish character values were forced to substantially lower levels all along the line. Conditions of the eastern dressed mutton markets were more or less unsettled and this had anything but a stimulating effect on the market with prices closing the four-week period a big 50 cents@\$1.00 below February's final quotations.

Total receipts for the month were 264,000 head, in comparison with 184,000 head in February and 229,000 head for March, 1925.

Prospects for the next four to six weeks are somewhat brighter concerning the trend of values, particularly on shorn classes. These kinds were hit the hardest during the month, but demand displayed a good deal of improvement the latter part of the period and some reaction from the low point was noted. Should the situation in the East become more favorable and supplies hold within reasonable proportions, prices will no doubt work higher. According to recent estimates it is said that in the neighborhood of 425,000 lambs will be moving out of California to eastern markets around the first of May, but a large percentage of these will run to feeding classes owing to a drought in the San Joaquin Valley which cut down the feed supply to a great extent in that locality and will probably force many lambs marketward in a light condition.

Lambs that could really be classed as feeders were scarce throughout March, that is light and handyweight kinds. The few of this sort that were received moved readily on most occasions, but under the sharp break in killing classes prices were inclined to sag and final quotations showed substantial declines from February. A fair number of lambs averaging upwards from 80 pounds were taken by shearers and in most cases sold at figures well around those paid for lambs by killers. Shipments from the local market for the month aggregated 14,500 head, against 13,800 head for the same month last year.

Features continued lacking in the aged sheep trade. Offerings practically the entire month were confined to small lots of ewes which killers absorbed readily at little change in price, in fact values held within extremely narrow limits throughout the four-week period.

Clyde McCreary.

### KANSAS CITY

A rally in lamb prices which started in late February was extended in the first two days of March until choice lightweight lambs reached \$14.25. From there on to the close of the month prices fluctuated widely, with a sagging tendency, and the close was under the 13-cent level, and about 50 cents under the February close. However, average prices for the month were above the last two weeks in February, but not sufficiently high to keep feeders on the profit side. It was evident throughout the entire month that the buying side held only moderate orders for dressed lamb and mutton, and that they knew supplies were sufficient to meet requirements. However, meat men bought freely and made every possible effort to dispose of the product. Owing to the small movement of dressed beef, eastward dressed lamb was in small demand for car fillers, and had to be handled on a straight lamb basis, increasing handling costs materially. It is not often that the big packers can be given credit for sustaining prices, but in the past thirty days they have gone the limit in purchases and

have taken considerable pains to stimulate the outlet on dressed product. With an indifferent wool demand and pelts slow, the packers' sheep business for March probably showed a net loss.

Feeders in a general way did a pretty good job of distributing supplies among the various markets, and this doubtless was a material factor in developing part of the stability in prices. April 1 there were fewer lambs on feed than a year ago, and if demand for dressed product was up to normal a general advance in prices could be expected, but with the early spring lambs ready to move, the remaining supply of winter-fed lambs, most of them heavyweights, will have to meet the competition of the new lamb crop. Many of the lambs yet to be marketed will average above 95 pounds, and both on the age and weight basis they have to draw yearling classification over the block.

The campaign of "Eat More Lamb" had some bearing on the March market, how much it would be hard to estimate, but it came in time to prevent a material cessation in the use of ovine meat. However, it was of sufficient importance to show that sheep feeders as well as sheep producers all over the country should never cease to boost the use of their own product.

March 22 the first spring lambs of the season arrived. They were natives that brought \$16 to \$16.50. The next day six doubles of Arizona springs from the Phoenix section weighing 69 pounds brought \$15.75 to \$16.25. In the next few days offerings increased, and prices sagged until the close of March, when Arizonas brought \$14 to \$15. The last offerings were showing 55 to 60 pound weights and were not so good as the first offerings, so that the difference in price was not entirely due to decline. All told about fifty carloads of Arizonas arrived during the month, about 12,000 head. According to government figures that state had only about 25,000 to market this spring, so that half of them have been moved.

From late April until the middle of July the corn belt will have more



lambs to market than at any similar period in the past decade. These will come in competition with the southern spring lambs and the early lambs from Idaho and California, so that it does not seem probable that the late spring and early summer lamb prices will be as high as during that period a year ago.

Sheep receipts in Kansas City last month were 147,214, compared with 111,758 in February, and 133,532 in March last year. In the three months this year receipts were 363,738, compared with 323,982 in the same period last year.

C. M. Pipkin.

### ST. JOSEPH

Sheep receipts for March were 160,348, the largest run ever received at this market in one month. March, 1925, with 149,264 was the previous banner month. The total for the year to date is 407,527, a gain of 60,936 over the same period a year ago. Of the month's receipts 93,000 came from Colorado, 33,500 from Nebraska, 13,682 from Kansas, a few loads from Idaho and New Mexico, and the balance from Missouri and Iowa.

The lamb market for the month has been very uneven. There was a 50-cent advance the first day, which placed top lambs at \$13.75, but since it has been very uneven, and closed with best at \$12.50, or 75 cents lower than last month's close. Extreme heavies were quoted down to \$11.50. Clipped lambs were \$9.50 to \$10 on the close. A few native springers were received the last ten days, which sold at \$15.50@16.00. Aged sheep were very scarce throughout the month and values hold steady. Good ewes sold at \$8.25@8.75, wethers mostly \$9.00, and yearlings \$10.00 @10.50.

H. H. Madden.

### DENVER

Sheep supply at Denver for March totaled 198,967 head compared to 184,474 in March, 1925. Demand for lambs was good at all times but prices fluctuated considerably and at the close of the month values were about a dollar lower than at the opening. Good

fat lambs sold here early in March at \$13 whereas \$12 was taking a very desirable class thirty days later. Since April 1 prices have advanced somewhat and best lambs sold on April 2 at \$12.65.

Buyers are complaining of the quality of the lambs coming to market this year. Not only are the weights heavier but many of the lambs show only a fair finish, feeders evidently being inclined to cut down the feed bill in view of the unsatisfactory returns for their feeding operations.

Orderly marketing, through the co-operation of feeders in their organized effort to distribute their supply of lambs, has had a very beneficial effect and has undoubtedly been a factor in holding values to present levels.

W. N. Fulton.

### TALK ON 1926 LAMB PRICES

Lamb feeders all over the country are revising their plans as a result of the winter market. There is general and outspoken determination to lay in thin lambs lower next fall.

Since the February slump contracting new crop lambs, which ran riot a year ago, has been practically suspended. This is a healthy sign, as repetition of the speculative craze early in 1925, when one Denver outfit had half a million lambs under contract, was pregnant with disaster.

Consensus of opinion is that the speculator should be eliminated. Other than assembling lambs at loading points and distributing in feeding sections, he discharges no useful function.

By eliminating the speculator, breeder and feeder could get closer together and cement their interests, which are obviously identical, as one cannot survive if the other goes to the wall.

Last year the speculator pocketed all the velvet on the lamb crop. Had the feeder had the benefit of his rake-off this winter's finishing operations would have been more profitable. Of course the speculator takes a chance, but in a majority of cases his responsibility is limited to the dollar per head paid when the contract is made.

The feeding lamb season will develop late this year. Colorado feeders, having swallowed a dose of nauseous medicine, will exercise patience. Some of them are talking 8-cent lambs, which is an improbable outcome; but that 1925 prices will not be paid is a cinch bet. What the farmer feeder down in the corn belt will do is another angle of the problem. Up to date in January this season he made money as he shorted his heavy lambs by running them in cornfields and got them out of the way on a sparsely supplied market, before they had acquired excessive weight and fat. Of what has happened subsequently to the Colorado feeder on heavy lambs, he is ignorant; consequently, in case feed is abundant, he may go out and make a high market for thin western lambs next summer, in which event the Colorado idea of laying in a cheap crop will not materialize. The corn belt farmer feeder will be a factor right along as he can put on gains in the fall cheaper than the western operator, for the lambs garner his corn without husking expense and incidentally clean his farm of weeds and apply a coat of fertilizer. Farmer feeders can handle lambs profitably if their figures show a loss on the transaction based on market value of grain.

The heavy lamb is another problem deserving consideration. Much of the disaster that descended on feeders west of the Missouri River this season was wholly fortuitous. Some philosopher has asserted that the most important factor in agriculture is the weather and it was bad weather last fall that was responsible for February demoralization of the fat lamb market. Under normal physical conditions, lambs that went into farmer's hands east of the Missouri River would have been out of the way early in January, which would have permitted Colorado and Nebraska operators to top out early, thus avoiding running into an excess number of 95@115-pound lambs which the trade cannot use and does not want. There would have been no 17-cent lambs early in the season had the weather acted right and no twelve-cent market in February.

Another problem up to feeders, which they are seriously considering, is buying lambs on the range on a weight basis as is done at the market. When a corn belt feeder buys lambs at Chicago or Omaha, he invariably penalizes weight, whereas the Colorado operator signs a contract to take them as they come at delivery time.

"What are you going to do about it," said a Fort Collins man, "when they run in a band of big lambs on you? The feeder will tell you that he has spent money on bucks to make them good and that he is selling you a superior article. They have bred them up to a standard where they cannot be decently finished under 90 pounds, a weight the killer says he cannot use. At the market they pay a premium of \$1 to \$1.50 per hundredweight for 60 to 62-pound lambs over the 75-pound kind and that is what the Colorado feeder is coming to. After all the breeder will not be hurt as he will get as much money per head."

The logical solution of the problem appears to be letting the farmer feeder in the corn belt have the big lambs and the western operator the light end of the crop. The farmer can short-feed the big ones while Colorado and Nebraska must carry along until the latter part of the winter, by which time a heavy lamb has attained excessive avoirdupois, and what is more serious, excessive fat, as when killers get a load of unfinished heavy lambs a kick promptly comes back that they did not dress normal percentage.

J. E. Poole.

#### **MONTANA WOOL GROWERS HOLD LOCAL MEETINGS**

Fergus County wool growers met March 18th at Lewistown and formed the Fergus County Wool Growers Association and elected the following officers: C. E. Long, president; George Gillpatrick, vice-president, and Frank Smith, secretary-treasurer. The meeting was addressed by Mr. Stebbins, who spoke on the market situation of wool and lambs, stressing the value of a state association and the many ways it could be of service to the sheepmen

of Montana. Carl Peterson, county agent, told of the value of a county organization.

At Hobson an enthusiastic gathering of wool growers was held March 17th. The meeting was addressed by R. L. Waddell, state live stock specialist, on the value of culling sheep, use of better breeding stock; and by Murray E. Stebbins, on local marketing conditions.

At Choteau another meeting was held, when the wool growers of Teton County assembled, March 20. At this meeting Mr. Stebbins also discussed marketing problems and the services the state organization can give sheepmen of the state. Growers of Teton County are working on a wool pool.

Leon Shaw.

#### **THE LAMB SITUATION APRIL 1**

The following report of the condition of the spring lamb crop was released on April 8 by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics of the United States Department of Agriculture:

Weather and feed conditions during March were not as favorable as in March, 1925, in most of the early lamb producing areas. The early crop lambs were not as well developed on the average as last year on April 1. Conditions during the first week of April were generally unfavorable except in California where heavy rains relieved a drought situation that was becoming serious. Present conditions point to smaller marketings of spring lambs in April than last year but increased supplies in May and June.

The situation in California is not as good as it was about March 1st. Drought conditions which were developing in the San Joaquin Valley were not relieved by rain during March and lambs in that area went backward during the month. Heavy rains over most of the early lamb area early in April has relieved the feed situation but it seems probable that the proportion of fat lambs suitable for Eastern shipment will be smaller than indicated a month ago. The California situation is complicated by the lack of buyers willing to contract lambs at prices acceptable to growers and only a small percentage of lambs have been contracted. Only six decks of lambs were shipped east in March compared to eighty a year ago. April shipments east are likely to be considerably smaller than last year with the bulk of the movement in May.

Weather conditions in the southwestern states during March were not favorable, either, for the development of the early lambs or the growth of pasture. Condition of both lambs and pastures is below that of April 1, last year. In Tennessee the reported proportion of early lambs is somewhat smaller than last year and of late lambs larger, but higher percentage of late lambs saved. Green feed is short and warm weather is needed. In Kentucky lamb losses

in March were small and ewes and lambs were generally in good condition. Pastures were furnishing green feed but warm weather was needed. In Virginia the growth of both lambs and pastures was retarded by unusually cold, cloudy weather.

In the corn belt states weather during part of March was fairly favorable but the severe storms at the end of the month were hard on young lambs and further retarded the growth of feed. In Missouri the lamb crop is estimated at about 10 per cent above last year with lambs in fairly good condition.

In the northwestern states weather during March was favorable for the growth of the early lambs but was too dry and windy for good growth of range feed. Low temperatures about the first of April also checked the growth of feed. In Idaho early lambing was completed under favorable conditions and a high percentage of lambs were saved. While range feed has been sufficient to date, there has been some shortage of water. Good rains and warm weather are needed. Under favorable conditions the market movement will start earlier than last year. In Oregon and Washington the early lamb crop has been above the average per cent and the lambs are in good condition while ranges have been good and more rain is needed to insure feed later.

#### **NEW PROTECTION AGAINST THE COYOTE**

The beacon searchlight along the air mail transcontinental route is driving away an "old timer" denizen of the "wild and wooly West"—the coyote.

Sheepmen of Unita County, who have been completing the annual migration of their herds from the winter to spring ranges, report that the coyotes have been frightened away from the ranges by the powerful searchlights and their flocks of sheep are no longer troubled by the coyote's depredations. Traps and poison in the past have failed to curb the sheep killing activities of the coyotes.

The air mail route along the flight path through southwestern Wyoming is lighted by huge revolving beacon searchlights, eight or ten miles apart, the beams of the lights covering a radius of several miles.

Whether the sleep of the sheep was disturbed by the searchlights was not indicated by the ranchers.

Leon Shaw.

## THE AMERICAN WOOL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY

(Continued from page 24)

and to encourage them to increase production for increase of population, but not so high as to encourage consumer resistance.

Just what that level is, I do not pretend to say, nor do I know how to effect a stabilization at that level when it is attained, but I can assure you that in this the interest of the manufacturer is precisely identical with your own in promoting any efforts which will tend toward that result. Any one who harbors a different opinion does not understand the A B C's of practical economics.

### French-Capper Bill

There is one other subject upon which I would speak to you briefly.

In Owen Wister's story called "The Virginian," you will remember that when one of the characters said something which is apt to provoke a fight, he was told always to smile when he used that expression.

Now, as I do not want to invite trouble for myself, I shall ask you to please understand that in the spirit of that advice I am smiling when I say what I am about to tell you.

I do not intend to abuse your hospitality by offering any argument against the French-Capper bill, or by any attempt to dissuade you from adopting your time honored resolution in support of that measure. It is merely my purpose to try to promote a better understanding of the manufacturers' attitude.

Opposition to legislation for compulsory labeling is not because of any lack of interest in protecting the public against misrepresentation. The opponents of the French-Capper bill are just as sincerely and earnestly desirous of preventing misrepresentation as the most ardent sponsor of the labeling scheme, and for the past twenty-five years have advocated the enactment of a law which they believe will accomplish effectually that purpose, so far as concerns wool clothing and goods.

Their opposition to the French-Capper Bill is because they are convinced that instead of protecting the public it will afford opportunities for deception under a sanction of government approval.

The most active and effective opponents of the bill have been worsted manufacturers, who use only, and can use only pure new wool and wool of the longer staple from which the short fibres have been combed out.

If the French-Capper Bill could accomplish what it is intended to do it would be to the advantage of all the mills making pure worsted goods to have it enacted.

Why do they oppose it?

For two reasons, principally. First, because compliance with the provisions of the law would appreciably increase the cost of their product, requiring the installation of expensive machinery for marking, and substantial increase in building capacity to provide for this machinery and the requisite space for the goods to be put through it; besides increasing the incidences of overhead expenses by slowing-up production.

Any increase in the cost of production, as experience has shown, will tend to reduce consumption and will therefore be detrimental alike to the manufacturer and the grower.

If as a result of these increased expenses the public would derive any

real benefit, that would be ample justification for such a law.

But these worsted manufacturers who, if there were any benefit in the labeling, would participate equally with the grower in the advantage, are convinced that the measure would be futile, either for the protection of the consumer or in permanently promoting the sale of their own pure wool fabrics.

The second reason for their opposition is because of their convinced belief that such a law would encourage unfair competition by giving the seal of government approval to inferior fabrics which could be truthfully stamped as pure new wool goods, though made of inferior or defective stock, or in poor and unserviceable construction.

I hope you will not think there has been any impropriety in making this explanation. It has long been the policy and practice of our association to be frank and direct in its methods, and however earnestly it advocates or opposes any cause, it endeavors to deserve the respect and confidence of the public, including those with whom it may have to differ in judgment.

I am grateful to you for your patience and forbearance, and thank you for the honor of the invitation to address you, and for all your kindnesses to me.

**If** you know your stuff as a sheepman you can answer these:

How much wool does Australia export?  
How much wool does America consume?  
How much wool has America on hand NOW?  
What per cent of that wool is domestic?  
What economic factors have a bearing on the wool market?  
Quote the London market for yesterday.

**If** you can't answer them all you're in need of  
**The F & G Reference Book**

Published by the **Feeders & Growers Service Bureau**  
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### An Exceptionally Good Sheep Dip

1 Part Kreso Dip No. 1 to 72 Parts  
Water will kill

### Sheep Ticks and Sheep Scab

It does not burn or irritate.  
Does not injure the fleece or skin.  
It heals shear cuts and wounds.

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## Montana Wool Growers!

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We specialize in 64-ounce, hemmed top, jute oversewed Bags made especially for us by Bemis; and 4-ply Paper Fleece Twine; a combination that affords the wool grower the best there is. We can also supply 4-ply Jute Fleece Twine.

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Write for Prices.

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Anchor Brand Dehorning Paint  
for use after shearing—for cuts and wounds. Just a drop might save an animal.

Gallons \$3.00—Postage prepaid.

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# MONEY SPENT IN PUBLIC SERVICE

**M**ORE CARS and more locomotives are being ordered by Southern Pacific Company for 1926 delivery, to keep pace with the growth of the western territory and its transportation requirements.

An order has just been placed for 23 three-cylinder Southern Pacific type locomotives, costing in the neighborhood of \$2,000,000. These locomotives, used to handle heavy trains in mountain sections of the West, are the most powerful and economical non-articulated locomotives yet designed. They will be delivered to the company by May 31, which will make it possible to have them in service before the peak of heavy traffic in the late summer and fall months.

The Company has also placed orders for 500 drop bottom gondola cars and 1100 fifty-ton standard box cars similar in type to the 2000 obtained by the Company last year and to the 500 now under construction at the Company's Sacramento shops. The box cars and gondola cars just ordered will cost \$3,225,000.

These equipment orders are in addition to the 5041 refrigerator cars ordered in December by the Pacific Fruit Express Company, owned jointly by Southern Pacific and Union Pacific. These cars will cost \$16,000,000 and will be delivered before the peak of the perishable movement this fall.

## SOUTHERN PACIFIC COMPANY

## AROUND THE RANGE COUNTRY

(Continued from page 18.)

the weather being unusually favorable for these activities. Rain would be helpful in most valleys.

### Baker

Snake Valley has had fine weather during the past two months, but we must have more moisture if the spring feed is to be good. Most of the ewes that I have seen look fine.

The coyotes are not so bad as they used to be, but in this valley we have to do our own poisoning, as we do not get help from anybody. The Utah Biological Survey people were out here a year ago last fall and they did a world of good around here with ground meat baits.

Lambing commences here about the first of May. Alfred Bellander.

## NEW MEXICO

A severe freeze generally over the state late in the month checked range growth, but moisture has come with proper frequency and in sufficient amounts to be highly favorable for the range outlook, though more moisture would help in the southern portion. Live stock are mostly in good condition, having wintered comparatively well.

\* \* \*

### Jicarilla

Since March 1 we have had stormy weather and considerable snow. Generally, however, the winter has been open. We had eight inches of snow in March, so there is plenty of moisture in the ground and grass and weeds are coming nicely now, April 9.

Ewes are in fine condition for lambing, and a good yield is looked for.

No wool or lambs have been contracted for future delivery around here. Heavy shipments of ewes were made from this section last fall, and the number bred will fall short of 1925 by a considerable number.

Paul C. Wilson.

## WESTERN TEXAS

Excellent livestock and range weather has prevailed, with rather copious rains over much of this region. Ranges have made steady improvement and live stock are generally in good condition. Wheat pastures and new grass are making satisfactory growth.

## Sanderson

February was warm and without moisture. We depend on range feed altogether and at present (March 1) it is short but green. The ewes are in good shape for lambing, which will commence about March 15. There is very little trading in sheep or wool in this section and very few lambs have been contracted.

Coyotes are about a thing of the past, as Terrell County is practically under net wire. J. C. Mitchell.

## ARIZONA

Mild weather with timely and well distributed showers of moderate proportions have been very beneficial to the livestock ranges of the state. Live stock are generally doing well, with a sufficient water supply within reach of good feed. Snow persists at some of the moderate elevations. Alfalfa, wheat and barley have made a splendid growth.

## Flagstaff

We have had continued drouth for the last six weeks or so. The feed outlook is good in the mountain country, but uncertain elsewhere. The usual heavy concentration of sheep in the Salt River Valley for wintering and early lambing purposes was largely avoided this season, due to the finding of suitable feeding and ranging conditions elsewhere for a considerable number of ewes.

The ewe bands are in good flesh at this time (March 8). Lambing is over with a fully normal crop reported.

E. H. Duffield.

## RANCH AND SHEEP EXCHANGE

## FOR SALE

200 head registered Rambouillet Ewes  
Ages two to six years. Butterfield  
breeding.

WM. BRIGGS & SON  
Dixon, California

## FOR SALE

32,000 acres grazing land in north-  
ern New Mexico. Two rivers and the  
railroad run through the land.

For further information, address  
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Sheep outfit complete, with 5500  
breeding ewes and ewe lambs  
from same. For price and partic-  
ulars

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## Registered Rambouillet Ewes

400 Registered Rambouillet ewes; ages,  
yearlings to fives. Bred to highest priced  
bucks of 1925 National Ram Sale. Will sell in  
lots to suit purchaser before or after lambing.  
Prices in reason.

CUNNINGHAM SHEEP COMPANY  
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REGISTERED RAMBOUILLET  
EWES WANTED ON CONTRACT

One car of broken-mouth ewes for  
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## EWES ON SHARES

I have plenty of good grazing land in  
northwestern Colorado on the D. & R. G.  
R. R. and would like to get one or two  
bands of ewes—yearlings, twos and  
threes—to graze on shares.

Address: J. W.,  
Care National Wool Grower,  
Salt Lake City, Utah.

## FOR SALE

3600 acres excellent lambing range,  
fenced and crossed fenced.

2000 acres good range, all fenced,  
plenty of running water.

Located in Tehama County.

Deal Direct with Owners.

For particulars address:

J. F. MALLON, 5302 Lawton Ave.  
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7,000 acres grazing land, suitable  
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Rambouillet Sheep

G. N. Merritt & Son, Woodland, Calif.

Offer their entire herd of registered and pure bred  
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## UTAH

Live stock have continued to do well though it was a dry month and moisture has been scarce, particularly on the desert ranges. A fairly general movement has progressed toward spring grazing areas, with new grass appearing in most sections in usable quantities for sheep. Spring lambing has continued under very favorable weather conditions. Rain is needed practically everywhere, especially in the southern portion.

### Mt. Pleasant

We have had fine weather during March and feed prospects are good. Lambing is over and the yield is good.

Chas. A. Truscott.

\* \* \*

### Cedar City

February and March have been splendid, and the sheep are in fine condition. The yield was good on the early crop of lambs. Lambing in this section commences about February 1 and extends up to June 1.

Feed conditions are good. Coyotes, however, are still bad in some localities.

G. W. Esplin.

\* \* \*

### Panguitch

There was sufficient moisture during March and no wind to date, March 26, but the snowfall has been below the average for the season, and whether or not we have spring feed will depend on the weather between now and May. Lambing will start May 20; a few lambs have been contracted at ten cents.

Thomas Sevy.

## COLORADO

Live stock and ranges having done very well during a mild March were given a setback during the closing week by the sudden turn to colder weather, especially in the southeast portion. Snow continues over much of the spring range areas, though feed has not been lacking as a rule. Rather favorable lambing weather has prevail-



ed over the western portion. Rain would be helpful on the lower range areas of the eastern and western counties, but generally soil moisture is ample.

\* \* \*

### Grand Junction

March has been warm with some showers and green feed is coming fine. There is every indication that there will be plenty of feed on the high range; we have had sufficient moisture to insure it.

Lambing starts May 15. There has been no contracting of lambs or wool up to date.

A. B. Bullerdick.

\* \* \*

### Paonia

Spring seems to be earlier than usual, as we have had a very light winter. During March we had rain on the 10th, 18th and 21st, and now the feed is just starting good. Most of the feed is hay in this section.

Only a few are lambing (March 24). So far there has been no contracting of either lambs or wool; but so many sheepmen seem to have cold feet and some seem willing to sell at a much lower price than obtained last year although expenses are just as high as ever, that it seems to me that this is the time to stick together for better prices. The talk here is of 35-cent wool.

W. D. Bennett.

\* \* \*

### Sapinero

The winter in western Colorado has been fine—very few storms. It has been necessary to feed only a very little hay. Prospects are excellent for a good lambing this spring. It commences about the middle of May.

F. D. Carpenter.

\* \* \*

### Cebolla

February was clear and warm; March is stormy so far (8th). The ewes are in fine shape and have a good growth of wool. We feed our ewes lots of second cutting alfalfa hay, so that they will give plenty of milk. Lambing commences April 20th.

A few ewes are selling at \$12 per head, but there is no activity in lamb or wool contracting. Walter Frank.



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H. L. FINCH, Owner, Soda Springs, Idaho



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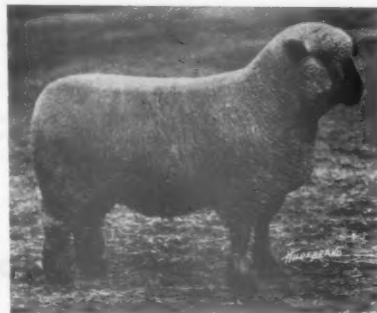
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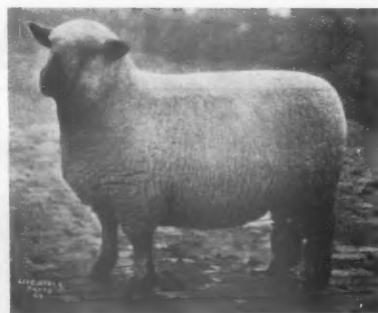
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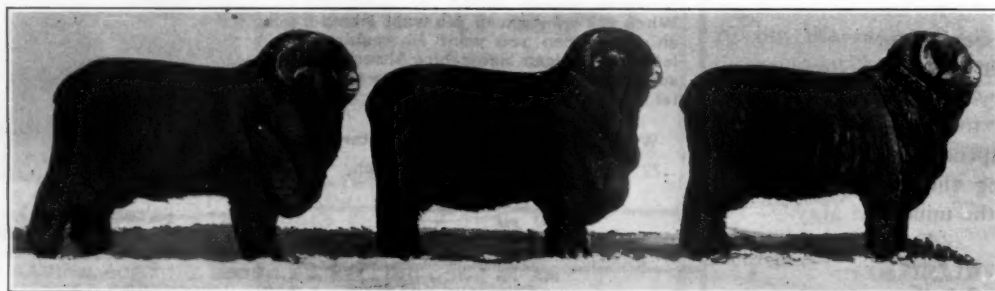
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